

# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
March/April 2004



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**Deadline for next edition  
May 30th**

**CW Field Day  
June 5/6th**

**IARU HF C'Ships  
June 10/11th**

**VHF/UHF Field Day  
July 3/4th**

**IOTA Contest  
July 24/25th**

**Autumn 2m Counties  
August 29th**

**SSB Field Day  
September 4/5th**



Tony EI5EM being presented with the Folan Shield by IRTS President Seán EI4GK at the recent IRTS AGM in Limerick.

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|                            |                        |             |                                   |
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| 8 Series Calls:            | Gerald Kenneally EI8HT |             | <i>ei8ht@eircom.net</i>           |
| 9 Series Calls:            | Mark Condon EI6JK      |             |                                   |

### News Bulletins and Readers

|                |      |         |                  |                                    |
|----------------|------|---------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>  |      |         |                  |                                    |
| Dublin         | 1045 | 144.275 | SSB              | Albert EI6AS                       |
| Dublin         | 1100 | 7.043   | SSB              | Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC |
| Wicklow        | 1130 | 7.068   | SSB (as Gaeilge) | Paddy EI7GK                        |
| Dublin         | 1145 | 145.525 | FM               | Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB          |
| Dublin         | 1200 | 3.650   | SSB              | As 1100                            |
| Tipperary      | 2030 | 145.450 | FM               | Tommy EI7IT, Gerry EI5HJ           |
| Dublin         | 2130 | 145.525 | FM               | As 1145                            |
| <b>Monday</b>  |      |         |                  |                                    |
| Cork           | 2000 | 145.750 | FM               | Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN          |
| Limerick       | 2000 | 145.725 | FM               | Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW            |
| Louth          | 2000 | 145.500 |                  | Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD            |
| Galway         | 2000 | 145.625 |                  | Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC       |
| <b>Tuesday</b> |      |         |                  |                                    |
| Waterford      | 2130 | 145.650 | FM               | John EI8JA, Robbie EI8FZB          |



## From the Editor.....

Welcome to a later than usual issue this time and apologies for the delay.

One of the things that is very noticeable is the lack of club news both in Echo Ireland and in the radio news.

We have over thirty club affiliated and they are either doing nothing or wanting to keep their activities very private.

Clubs play a very important role in our wonderful hobby as they give newcomers and indeed old timers a chance to meet and learn from experienced experimenters.

However, talking is not enough. New entrants to the hobby need to experience the practical side of things and club activities, whatever they are, present such opportunities.

There are many relatively simple things that clubs can get involved in. A run-of-the-mill special event station of any kind should be a low pressure event, requiring minimum equipment but giving people experience of station building at its most basic. The operating skills of such a station are not too difficult and every club should try one at least once a year.

Restricted section in any of the field days would fit in the same category for station building but the operating moves up a gear.

For the more advanced, entering the open section of field day provides a wonderful opportunity to take things a stage further in both station building and operating.

If your club does not do a lot of practical things, maybe you could be the leader.

One person willing to take responsibility is all it takes. Most people want to be led.

If you cannot motivate your own group not get involved with one of the active groups. Every group could probably do with an extra pair of hands.

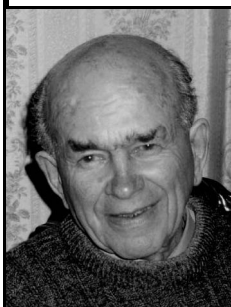
Any individual who would like to get involved in one of the field days, with or without equipment, should contact the Contest Manager without delay. Stations can be provided easily. Getting operators is the problem. Hope to see you at a field day.

EI4BZ!

## Silent Key

### Bill O'Reilly EI8AU

The death took place on Wednesday 22nd of January 2004 of William (Bill) O'Reilly EI8AU.



Bill was a founder member of Cork Radio Club and was an avid DXer, obtaining many awards in his time. He had over 300 countries worked and was the founder of the Cork

Radio Club DX Award.

For many years he was in charge of the Club station at EI5CRC. He obtained the callsign EI7DJ as a contest call for the club and with it he obtained the DXCC as well as working many rare stations

Bill was a quite unassuming man, whose life centred around amateur radio.

He ran a typewriter service business until his retirement some years ago. He was a man imbued with the true amateur spirit and will be greatly missed by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.

## Silent Key KE2FZ/EI7HY

Gene Harrington KE2FZ/EI7HY, originally from Leitrim, sadly passed away on the 4th of April this year in his home in New York. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in EI.

## Trans-Atlantic Attempt on 2 Metres

John MI0AAZ is interested in taking part in a expedition to North West Co Donegal later this year to make an attempt on the Trans-Atlantic contact on 2 metres

He would like other Amateurs from Ireland to take part in this because he feels that it would be achieved through a group effort rather than an individual. As you may know, there is now a 2 metre beacon QRV on 144.400 MHz from Newfoundland which is an ideal reference for possible band openings.

John MI0AAZ in Coleraine, Co Derry.

## Silent Key - John Scanlon EI4L

John Scanlon was born in Wexford on the 14th of September 1909 and he left school at an early age and obtained an apprenticeship at the Pierce engineering works in Wexford, makers of the famous 'Pierce Plough'.

In the 1930's John obtained a position with the Local Health Board at Wexford County Hospital as Electrical and Maintenance engineer and he would remain at the position for over 50 years retiring aged 72 years.

John's interest in 'Radio Experimentation' first developed in the 1920's when he first experimented with 'spark transmitters'.

In May 1936 he obtained the call sign EI4L and he quickly developed his knowledge and as with all experimenters at that time made all his own equipment, even his own crystals.

John was aware that high quality eyepieces for spectacles contained quartz and he would spend days grinding and testing the resonance of his crystals, often breaking them only to start again.

He wrote an article on the procedure which was published in several Radio Journals.

During the Second World War all equipment was seized by the Government and after the War he began to experiment with Television.

John received a visit from BBC engineers after receiving a signal from one of their transmitters 200 miles away, (a first at the time) and was offered a position with the company, but he declined.

During the 30's, 40's and 50's John obtained many awards, mainly DXCC, WAZ, WAS and BERTA. Most of his contacts were made on 10m using AM modulation and CW and a folded dipole.

Early in the 1960's John moved house and packed up all his equipment.

He was a man of many hobbies which included photography, history, electronics and sketching.

As his interest in photography grew, radio took a back seat. As with radio, photography was taken on with the same enthusiasm and he processed all his own work and had several exhibitions.

In 1980, after many years of absence from the air-waves, EI4L once again returned. He had maintained his licence and his knowledge and fitted in as if he had never left.

He always had his call sign displayed with adhesive lettering in his car.

Early in his new career in his favourite hobby he met up with Harry McGrath WB2EZM and a long friendship developed.

They kept a sked every Tuesday and Thursday mainly on 14.270 MHz which never failed and was made through poor conditions and low activity right up until 1998 when John was unfortunate to have an accident.

Over the last number of years EI4L has not been very active but his interest was always there. He was always a mine of information and knowledge and in February of 2004 was listed on the Honour Roll of the RSGB with 62 years membership.

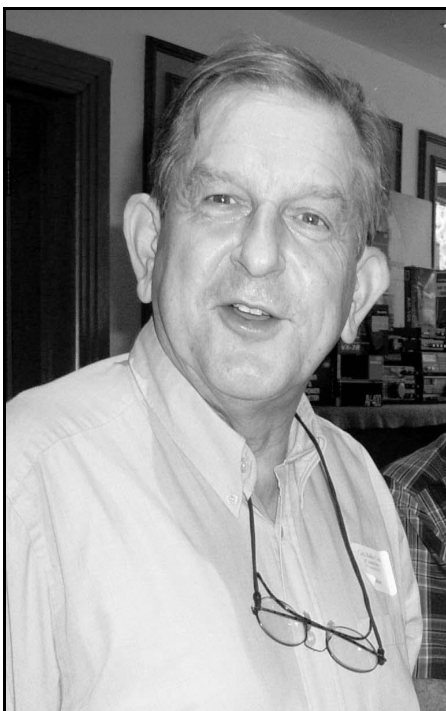
John was one of the true 'pioneers' of radio and was certainly a man ahead of his time.

Over the last number of months his health failed and he parted this world on the 14th of March 2004 to be with his beloved wife Kathleen whom he had lost in 1988. He will be sadly missed. He is survived by his three children, 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Two members of his family, his grandson John Kelly EI4HS and his nephew Frank Nolan EI5ER have followed in his footsteps.

May he Rest in Peace.

John EI4HS



## EI7BA

### EI's First E-QSL DXCC

Congratulations to John Tait EI7BA who recently became the first EI experimenter to achieve the magic 100 DXCC entities QSLed on E-QSL.

John is very active on all the HF bands and is a well known low band DXer. See his web site at <http://www.iol.ie/~bravo>

## 4 Metre Activity Night

Please remember that the first Tuesday of every month has been designated for 4m activity night.

A 4 metre simplex on 70.350MHz is currently on test in North Cork.

## 4 Metre Beacon

A 4 metre beacon using the callsign GB3WSX is active on 70.007 MHz since the 1st of March. It is keying callsign and locator in F1A mode. The Beacon is located in Yeovil, Somerset. It is currently operating with only 2.25 watts into a 5-element beam antenna at approximately 90 feet ASL.

# Frank Colbert - EI-5R

## Waterford & Tramore

### An Appreciation

When the history of Amateur Radio in the South-East of Ireland is recorded for posterity, the name of Frank Colbert, EI-5R will be spoken of with admiration and fondness.

Frank began his working career as an electrician with the E.S.B. and worked on the introduction on the new source of energy on the West coast, particularly Clifden in Galway, where he lived for many years.

He later, again with the E.S.B, supervised the introduction of rural electrification in Wexford, where he relates he knew every back road in the county – and that is an achievement on its own.



It was around this time that Frank became interested in Amateur Radio and after completing the required Government examinations he was issued with his Radio Call sign – EI5R, which is now one of the oldest call signs in the country.

Along with Dick Madigan – EI-9Q, Manor St., Waterford (RIP) they pioneered Amateur Radio in this area and coached most of the present members of the South-East Amateur Radio Group, during these years Frank resided in Tramore, Co. Waterford.

Frank was a real professional and took great pride in building most of his "home brew" equipment, which at the time was the envy of all of us. He also became an expert Radio & Television technician and his talents were always in constant demand.

For the past several months now Frank's health has been poorly and eventually he became a "Silent Key" on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup>. April.

To Collette – Frank's wife, and to his sons we offer our sincere condolences.....and no doubt that Frank will seek a way to continue his QSO's from the Greatest Radio Station of them all.

73's Frank, we will always think of you, and be in our prayers.

Mike, EI7AH, on behalf of all radio enthusiasts.

## Les Moxon G6XN - Silent Key

You will all be sorry to hear that Les Moxon G6XN died on the 3rd of March. He was 95 and was one of the oldest amateurs in the UK having been licensed in 1928.

He is well known for his expertise and particularly his writings on antennas. Many of you will have on your shelves his well-known and very valuable book "HF Antennas for All Locations" which was published in 1982 and is in its third printing. Amateurs will also be familiar with antennas featuring the Moxon rectangle. He was a great experimenter and he is survived by his wife Nancy and son David.

## Tribute to the late Jack Love, EI 4AN

With the recent death of Jack Love, EI 4AN, amateur Radio in Ireland suffered a great loss. The late Jack had been in failing health for some time but continued to honour his skeds up to the last. Jack was very well known on the ham bands for almost fifty years. He was endowed with a great sense of humour. Once, when asked how long he had been interested in Radio, Jack replied that he had 'taken over the running of the shop from Marconi' !

Jack always claimed that he had the ideal location for his hobby, living outside Bailieboro, in Co. Cavan, the second highest town in Ireland. As a young man he was a keen SWL, studying propagation and band openings. He claimed that this was the ideal apprenticeship for a potential licensee.

He was a founder member of Dundalk Amateur Radio Club and was always a keen supporter. He attended Radio Rallies throughout EI and GI and was a long-time member of IRTS.

Ham Radio was only a small part of Jack's work. His activity on the bands would be limited to very early morning or late night.

He also ran a 200-acre farm and was recognised as being a farmer with an extraordinary understanding and insight into farming and nature and how they both could interact to the benefit of society.

He was a founder member of the Virginia Agricultural Show Society, to which he was very committed throughout his life. He was honoured as being elected the Show's Vice President all through the seventies and eighties.

He was a founder member of the Mullagh Co-Operative Agricultural and Dairy Society and was on the board for many years.

He was a member of the Balieboro' Co-Op. and Dairy Society.

To create employment in his local area, he was to the fore in the founding of Refractories Ltd., a factory manufacturing firebricks where he served on the Board for many years. He was the first man in Co. Cavan to buy a Ferguson tractor, back in the early fifties.

For years Jack was a great friend, on and off the air, with the late Fr. Edward Fox, EI8CW. In 1980 Fr. Ned was appointed Parish Priest of Knockbride, and was now Jack's neighbour.

During his first Sunday morning Mass in his new parish, in introducing himself to the parishioners, he declared himself a great friend of Jack Love and this ensured his acceptance by one and all.

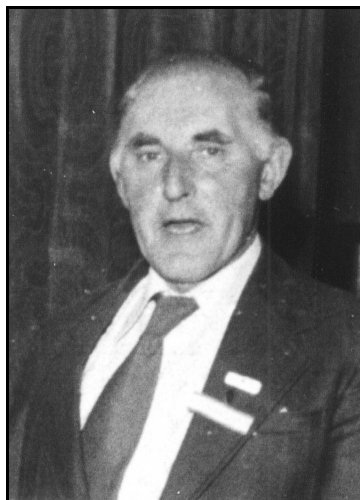
In combining his love of farming with his ham radio he could be heard on skeds with other farmers, particularly in the US discussing all aspects of farming. One of his special contacts was W3JGM, Frank, a farmer in Maryland and Jack and he 'ragchewed' for hours and hours on matters of farming night after night.

Jack was proud of the fact that amongst his large collection of QSL cards was one from A5, Bhutan, he being the first EI to receive confirmation of a contact.

His passing will be sadly missed and our sympathies are extended to his widow Elsie, son Robert and daughters Mrs Nora Picken (Nottingham) and Mrs Sylvie Mullane (Dublin) and his seven grandchildren and three great-grand children.

Jack's funeral service took place at Trinity Presbyterian Church, at which the large attendance, including many Hams reflected the esteem in which he was held.

George, EI 6S.



## New Worked All Britain Navigational Aids Award

The following rules will apply: -

- 1.. To be valid for the award, a Navigational Aid must be named in the Nautical Almanac and be a land-based, fixed lighthouse or harbour light.
2. We require that the station must be at or adjacent to the light. Adjacent means next to, or as close as possible on the land adjoining the boundaries of the light.
3. The WAB area activated shall be that in which the station is established. Subject to paragraph (2) above, this may not be the same area as the light.
4. The start date shall be 1st January 2004.
5. Claims should be submitted to the Awards Manager in country order and alphabetical order by the name of the Aid. They should include date of the contact, WAB Area and station worked. Details should be included of band and mode for any endorsement that is required.
6. Certificates will be issued for each 25 worked/heard on HF and each 10 on VHF/UHF. The normal certificate price applies. For subsequent claims, previous claims must be included.
7. The Award shall apply to Great Britain and Northern Ireland only. Aids in the Republic of Ireland will not be valid.

Judith G4IAQ, Awards Manager

## 6 Metres Restrictions lifted

Following a meeting between IRTS and ComReg representatives held on Wednesday February the 25th, the society is pleased to announce that it has secured the lifting of restrictions on the 6-metre band.

All experimenters are now licensed to use this band with a power limit of 20dBW. We stress that there is no need to apply for specific permission to use the band.

Unfortunately, there is no change in the 4-metre band licensing requirements.



# On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,  
13 Hazel Road,  
Togher, Cork.  
ei2hy@eircom.net

Welcome to another On the Air issue. We've now passed the Equinox (which occurred at 06:49UTC on March 20<sup>th</sup> and solar activity continues to be low to very low with just a small chance of minor M class Flares coming from Regions 574 and 578.

Forecasts suggest that activity levels are expected to increase to active to minor storm levels as a small coronal hole high-speed stream rotates into geoeffective position. A large, recurrent coronal hole high-speed stream returned on April 6<sup>th</sup> and produced active to minor storm conditions.

Nothing however, as spectacular as the record breaking X class Flare we had last November 4<sup>th</sup> which I suggested might have been the largest Flare ever recorded at X28 but now scientists at the University of Otago, in New Zealand have determined that the intensity of the Flare is a staggering X45!

Previously the other two largest Flares were X20 back in August 1989 and April 2001 but fortunately the Earth didn't take a direct hit from this immense blast of radiation and matter, it was by measuring the effects the Flare had on the Earth's upper atmosphere that the team were able to determine the strength of the Flare. The New Zealanders say their calculations show the flare's X-ray radiation bombarding the atmosphere was equivalent to that of 5,000 suns, though none of it reached the Earth's surface, they stress hi!

## Band Reports

It's a case of the "missing" DXpeditions that take the spotlight this issue!

Due to have been over by now should have been the trip to Aves Island (YV0) which seems to have mysteriously disappeared from all DX bulletins! No one seems to know what happened or if the trip will even still go ahead?

Also the Clipperton trip failed to materialise but happily this was just due to "difficulties" with transportation and has now been rescheduled for next year, 2005.

Plenty of rare ones though to keep us on our toes while we wait for the "big boys" to fire up.

The Mexican led group XF4IH came on air on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from Socorro Island, part of the Revillagigedo Archipelago as

planned but with the group reduced by half in number from a planned eight operators down to four operators.

Even though they were worked easily by the JA's and US ops, they proved a bit more elusive to catch in Europe and indeed signals were a bit weak here in my shack!

No such problems working the French led trip to Togo in Africa who were very active on all bands and modes as 5V7C which finished up on March 13<sup>th</sup> with a respectable 17,500 QSO's in the log. Also active from Africa during the last few weeks were 9U5M, who was UN worker Michael, PA5M, and has now returned home. Spending a lot of time in Morocco to take part in the CQ 160m Contest, the ARRL DX SSB and the CQ WPX Contest was Jim, W7EJ, who burned up the airwaves as CN2R.

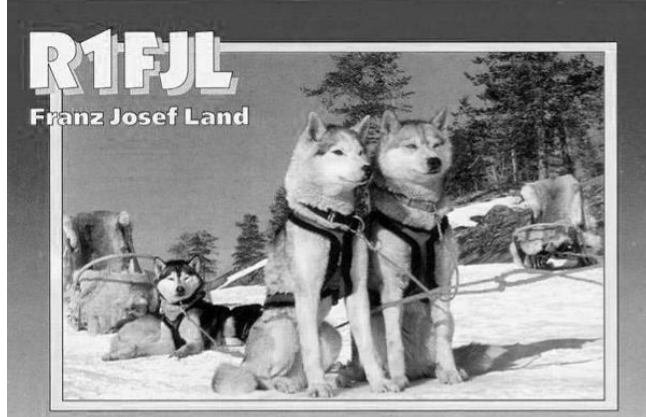
Just south of Morocco we had Karl, DK2WV, who operated from Western Sahara as S07V and going further south we had Klaus, DJ4SO, who was active from Namibia between February 25<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup> as V51/DJ4SO.

If you missed Klaus and still need V51, Christine, DH3FBS, and Felix, DL5XL, whose call you might recognise from his Antarctica days as DF0POL, are now QRV there until mid April.

Gone QRT by the time you read this will be Jan, PA9JJ, who returned again to the Gambia as C56JJ until April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Also active from Africa are fellow Dutch Amateurs Rob, PA3DEW, and Vincent, PA3FQX, who are both using the same call 9G1AA from a Hospital in Ghana. QSL's go to PA3ERA for this one. Also in the same area a group were active from Swaziland during March 12-22 and consisted of Charles/K5LBU (3DA0CF), Don/W0DM (3DA0DM) Paul/N0AH (3DA0AX) and Andre/ZS6WPX (3DAWPX).

Active on the PSK 31 mode due to using just 6 watts is Andy, LX1DA, as LX1DA/6W and YL chasers were kept happy by Jean who gave out Uganda with her call 5X4L, cards to WA0MJA. Next door in Kenya, Alex is still very much active as 5Z4DZ and just firing up



now as I write this, well known CW operators and Globe Trekkers, Nigel, G3TXF, and Roger, G3SXW, are on from Cameroon until April 1<sup>st</sup> as TJ3G and will no doubt drop TJ well down the list for CW only contacts.

IOTA chasers will want to listen out for well known Island activator Jack, F6BUM, who hoped to put Mondoleh Island (AF-New) on air April 10 and 11 as TJ3MC but I didn't hear it?

Also heading for Africa a large group of Europeans put Mauritania (5T) on the air as 5T0EU and were also in the CQ WPX Contest which this year sounded a bit more "subdued" compared to previous years, due in no small way to the gradual slide towards the bottom of the Cycle.

**10m** barely opened and surprisingly signals weren't the best either on **15m**. Amongst the usual suspects could be found 3Z8Z (SP), 5K1X (HK), 9M2RPN, BW3/JD1BKQ, CQ9K (CT3), HB75A, HI3CCP, TO7T (FG) and YA0J.

Heading east out into the Indian Ocean Mort, DL6UAA, was hopping from Mauritius where he was QRV as 3B8MM onto Rodrigues where he used 3B9MM before once again returning to Mauritius.

Of course all antennae and ears were firmly focused on Rodrigues because 3B9C came on air during the evening of March 19<sup>th</sup> at 20:00UTC on 18 MHz and proceeded to burn up many bands and modes rapidly and at some stages had 12 simultaneous signals on, all making QSO's hi! Signals were very strong and persistent on all bands and I was even able to make a "novelty" contact on **10m** FM as well as pick them up on RTTY for a new one.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

They went QRT on Monday April 10<sup>th</sup> at local sunrise time on Rodrigues after some 23 days on air and they managed to put over 150,000 QSO's into the log, making 3B9C the second largest operation after D68C which was also organised by the same group and had 14 of the same ops from D68C to give us a professional operation.

Also on air was Franz Josef Land (R1F) which had a team of Russian operators come on as R1FJ just after St Patrick's Day at 20:00UTC on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

This Archipelago of about 191 ice covered Islands lies at latitude 80 to 82 degrees North and is only 550 miles from the North Pole.

The largest island in the group is Zemlya Georga which measures 69 miles from end to end.

The group were first discovered by two Austrian explorers Karl Weyprecht and Julius Von Payer in 1873 who were searching for a north east passage and they named the Archipelago in honour of the then Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria. After making some 22,000 QSO's the team went QRT at 12.00UTC on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Staying with the North Pole "theme" some of you might have worked R0PA, which was on a floating iceberg known as North Pole Drifting Station SP-32. This was in the news recently when all 12 explorers (and two dogs) had to be dramatically rescued from the floating berg when their base was crushed by a wall of ice pushed up from the surrounding ice floe on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They were forced to huddle together for three days

in the remains of the outpost until they were finally rescued by helicopter.

Onto warmer climes now, and after 3B9C wound down we still had T33C on from Banaba Island.

Doing a tour of the Pacific Entities was Rolf, DK2ZF, who after his time on Fiji as 3D2ZF was due to come on from the not very often heard Island Kingdom of Nauru as C21ZF between March 9-15.

Due to not hearing from the Immigration Officials in time he had to cancel and move onto his next port of call which was Western Kiribati as T30ZF until the end of March.

Dick, DJ2EH, of CE0YEH, FW2EH and JJ0ADJ was QRV during the middle of April as C21DL.

Also hitting the little Islands were husband and wife combo of Lot, DJ7ZG, and Babs, DL7AFS, who came on from Lord Howe Island (OC-004) between February 16-27 with the call VK9LB and even though Babs was a very good signal in the mornings long path, I note only one EI in the logs! Myself hi!

After a few transportation problems going to their next destination the duo came on from Norfolk Island (OC-005) from between March 1-13 as VK9NB and this time the online log tally shows three EI's safely in the log, EI's 0CL, 2HY and 4CF, all of us on **20m SSB**. Other German ops on tour in the Pacific were DH3WO, DJ2HD and DL5DAN who were on from the rare enough Fafa Island (OC-049), part of Toga, using the calls A35DH, A35DJ and A35DA respectively. Plans are to go onto New Zealand's North Island (OC-036) and operate as ZL/Home calls.

Not to be outdone, fellow German ops Franz, ZL2III, and Dom, DL5EBE, were easily workable from Chatham Islands (OC-038) as ZL7II from April 7-14.

ZK1UFF was Harald, LA5UF, operating from popular Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands between April 11-16.

By far the most interesting (and rarest) operation was ZS8MI from Marion Island (AF-021). This lies some 1770km South East of Port Elizabeth in South Africa to which it belongs, having been formally annexed in 1947, first discovered in 1663 by the Dutch ship Maerseveen. Marion itself is the tip of a large 5000m volcano which was thought to be extinct but last erupted in 1980 and it's now classed as "active".

The two operators on there at the moment, Ludwig Combrinck and Pieter Stronkhorst, are part of a scientific study exercise and are staff members of the

Hartebeesthoek Radio Astronomy Observatory (HartRAO) Space Geodesy Programme and can only operate as their spare time dictates.

This explains why they've popped up on the "245" DX Net on 14.245 MHz to operate in a Net style "DX-ing by numbers" which can prove to be slightly frustrating if you're not a part of the "Old Boys" Net in the first place hi!

A few "slims" have popped up as well especially using Syrian calls so if these two calls are in your log then I'm afraid they're of no use to you:

YK2A and YK2MM could be heard commanding a large gathering of the faithful but beam headings didn't quite match up hi!

Just the one log extract again this issue and my thanks to Chuck, EI4IS, who saves me each time with some of the "goodies" he works hi!

Gracing Chucks log we had:

3V8SF/p, 9M2/GM4YXI (AS-073), 9Y4/DL8JS, HR3/W0GLG (NA-160), J77CCM, OH0I, OX/SM0LQB, TP7CE, V44KJ, VP2ME, XW1A and YI9LEK.

### Up and Coming

It looks like the DX season will be good for the next few weeks as well, while nothing as rare as some of those already on, there's still a good few to help you rack up the various bands and modes slots.

Prefix hunters might like to listen out for JU45D and JV45D due to be operated from Mongolia (JT) to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dornod Radio Club.

A group of UK ops will put Malawi (7Q) firmly on the map between April 18th and May 1<sup>st</sup> so might still be QRV when you read this, consisting of Mark G4AXX, Dick GU4CHY, Steve G4EDG, Steve G4JVG and Rich M5RIC. The group will operate from the Red Lodge Hotel on the shores of Lake Malawi and hope to put on two stations around the clock using the call 7Q7MM.

Also possibly still on air when you receive this will be Pierre, HB9QQ, who returns to the Maldives (AS-013) again as 8Q7QQ from April 13-27.

Likewise with these two trips planned for some of the Pacific Islands where a large group of JA ops will be on from the Republic of Palau (OC-009) from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> using the following calls: T88KJ (JA1KJW), T88JY

(Continued on page 8)





(Continued from page 7)

(JA1JQY), T88MC (JA3MCA), T88PO (JI1FPO) and T88XX (JR1LVB).

A lot of trips are planned to activate new ones for the IOTA programme.

Already I mentioned F6BUM heading for Cameroon in April, also heading that way is Seb, F8DQZ, who hopes to get to Tristao Island (AF-New) during his operation between April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup> with the unique call 3XDQZ.

Jaak, ES1FB, and Oleg, ES1RA, make a return trip to Cambodia from May 7-19 using the same calls as previous trips, XU7ACE and XU7ARA, and will again do a side trip to Koh Pas Island (AS-133) with the call XU7ACV.

Another rare one might be heard on HF at anytime because currently based on Amsterdam Island (FT/Z) and IOTA AF-002 is Sebastien who holds the call FT1ZL which is a Class Two VHF licence in France but recently France has joined, again sadly hi!, the increasing number of countries dropping the Morse so once Sebastien gets the official go ahead listen out for the rare Amsterdam Island.

May sees French op Mike, F2OA, coming on from Rabat, Morocco as CN2OA between May 21-24.

If you're chasing DXCC on the WARC bands then you'll be interested to know that for the rest of the year special permission has been given to the RAST (Radio Amateur Society of Thailand) to air the unique call HS72B to celebrates the Queen's 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday, the call will only be used at certain times though and has already been used on an IOTA trip to Koh Chang Island (AS-125).

Finally, a piece of interesting news was broadcast on Radio Canada International recently where it seems the Canada is interested in making the Turks and Caicos Islands (VP5) a Canadian Province or Territory.

Currently it's a British Overseas Territory. Apparently both Prime Ministers of both countries are quite keen on the idea which, I presume, would see Turks and Caicos been deleted as VP5, getting added as a new Entity and gaining a new prefix block, so looks like we'll all have to work it again for a "new" one!

That's it for this issue, my thanks to the Daily DX as always, until next issue, keep listening!

Anthony EIHY

## South Dublin Radio Club

### Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of South Dublin Radio Club took place on Tuesday 24th February.

There were 20 members at the meeting, with 4 visitors also in attendance.

It's been a busy year for the club, with plenty of activity, including contests, antenna experiments and other outdoor activities.

The three existing executive officers - Chairman Tom McGrath EI7HT, Secretary Mark Boothman EI9IB and Treasurer Mark Condon

EI6JK - stepped down from their positions, in accordance with the club's constitution, and elections were held for a new committee.

The new committee elected for 2004 is as follows:

Chairman: Jim Holohan EI4HH  
Secretary: Daniel Cussen EI9FHB  
Treasurer: Tony Ryan EI9FIB

Other committee members:

Rob Fitzsimons SWL  
Kyle O'Connell EI2JO  
Tom McGrath EI7HT  
Nicki Mullally EI9JF

A number of activities are already planned for 2004 - including a club outdoor activity day, focusing on antenna experiments, on 13th March and an intra-club contest based around the next SSB EU Sprint Contest.

Ideas for further activities were floated at the AGM, to be considered by the new committee.

### Spring Counties Contest

SDR members heard operating in the recent IRTS 2m Counties Contest: Mark EI6JK/P on Wolftrap Mountain, Co. Offaly

Joe EI7GY/P on Arderin, Co. Offaly  
Tony EI9FIB/P in Co. Kildare  
Kyle EI2JO/P on Tonlague, Co. Wick-low  
Tom EI7HT in Dublin



Mark EI6JK presenting the IRTS Presidents Cup to the newly elected Chairman Jim EI4HH SDR were awarded the Presidents Cup at the IRTS AGM in recognition of their cross border activities with the Glengormley ARS.

Mike EI4JL/P in Sligo  
Nicholas EI2JL in Dublin  
Peter EI9ES in Dublin

### New Club Constitution

At a meeting on 13th April, members of South Dublin Radio Club discussed the proposed draft new constitution for the club.

A number of changes to the original draft were discussed and agreed. A revised draft, incorporating these changes, can now be downloaded from the club's web site;  
<http://www.qsl.net/ei2sdr/>

### New Licensees

Three members of South Dublin Radio Club sat the recent Radio Theory examination, and all three passed.

They are Paul Eustace, Michael Friary and Robert Fitzsimons.

Well done to the three, and also of course to Jim EI4HH who steered them through the theory course over the past few months.

### GEARS Annual Quiz

SDR members travelled to Carrickfergus, County Antrim recently for the annual Quiz run by GEARS - The Glengormely Electronics and Amateur Radio Society.

Last year, they won the quiz, but their luck ran out this time, and they had to settle for 4th place.

In any case, it was a very enjoyable night, with plenty of eyeball QSOs between the SDR and GEARS members.





# Committee Report to the Annual General Meeting

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society

### Greenhills Hotel, Limerick

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2004

#### Committee Meetings

Seven Committee meetings were held during the year. Six meetings were held in the Montague Hotel in Portlaoise while the seventh was hosted by the Cork Radio Club at their premises in Bishopstown on the eve of the Blarney Rally in September.

Although primarily concerned with long-term policy issues, committee meetings are also valuable to ensure that on-going difficulties and opportunities are aired in an open and supportive atmosphere.

#### Membership

The total membership of IRTS at the end of December 2003 was 1005 compared to 977 last year.

In October 2003 we wrote to licensed experimenters who were not members. This mail shot brought in 41 additional members and contributed greatly to the record level of membership at the end of the year.

It was encouraging to see that in 2003 the level of membership lapses was the lowest for many years. Every effort is made by the Society to keep membership levels up.

#### ComReg

ComReg is the body in charged with the regulation of Telecommunications in Ireland. The Society maintains regular contact with ComReg and hold meetings as necessary to discuss matters impacting on Amateur Radio. Such contacts help to resolve different issues which arise from time to time. One major issue is still unresolved. The difficulty in obtaining Theory Tests has been a problem for the Society in recent years.

This became more difficult with the withdrawal of the Department of the Marine from conducting theory examinations. Following a meeting in July 2003 ComReg agreed to allow Dan Lloyd EI3AE to set and conduct a theory examination. Considerable difficulties had to be overcome to arrange this. It was originally hoped to have the exam in October 2003. A list of prospective candidates was drawn up by ComReg following announcements carried by the IRTS News Service but the exam was not held until February of this year.

Efforts have been ongoing to arrange for the Society to take over the running of the exams and considerable work has already been done by the committee to facilitate this.

However it is still not possible to say at this stage when the issues will be finalized.

#### Morse Code

Following the decision of WRC 2003 to eliminate the mandatory Morse code requirement for access to the HF bands ComReg moved quickly to allow B licensees' access to HF.

It should be noted however that there is as yet no common CEPT agreement on the Morse code requirement (in fact only 6 CEPT countries have dropped Morse)

B licensees should be aware, for the time being, that their license is CEPT Class II and if intending to operate abroad to be

aware that, in certain countries, they may not have HF privileges.

#### IARU

The World Radio Conference held last June/July in Geneva produced some important decisions for amateur radio.

As already mentioned, the removal of the mandatory Morse test requirement was agreed together with some greater flexibility into how amateur call signs are structured. Important news for radio amateurs is that there will be a dramatic improvement in the 40-meter band.

After weeks of debate and efforts to resolve major differences between numerous proposals, (including strong positions for no change), the conference agreed to shift broadcasting stations in Regions 1 and 3 out of the 7100-7200 kHz band and to reallocate that band to the amateur service in those two Regions. The broadcasting band in Regions 1 and 3 will become 7200-7450 kHz. and in Region 2, 7300-7400 kHz.

The change will take effect on 29 March 2009 - a relatively short time by ITU standards.

The Irish delegation to WRC 2003 was led Mr. John Breen of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. Mr. Breen was kind enough to keep IRTS informed of the progress of the conference. The Society appreciates the fact that Mr. Breen has been willing to listen to, and take note of, our representations.

#### EUROCOMM

This is an EU wide group of amateurs that keeps an eye on EU Directives and legislation that could impact on Radio amateurs.

In recent years it has been particularly exercised by the subject of Power Line Transmission (PLT) which has a potential to generate serious interference for radio users. The research done by EUROCOMM is particularly useful to IRTS, and relevant to Ireland, now that the ESB has been given permission to undertake experiments with PLT.

IRTS is monitoring these experiments closely and has already made representations to ComReg on the subject.

#### AREN

Following some years of mainly local activity we are pleased to report that there has been a significant improvement in AREN activity over the past year.

Under the stewardship of John EI3GN a detailed plan was laid out.

This included the production of a training manual which is an essential element in placing AREN operations on a sound footing.

An AREN net is held monthly on both VHF and HF.

A 24 hour nationwide exercise was carried out by members of the group in December. A 24 hour watch was maintained on both HF and VHF. This exercise was carried out without the use of the public power supply in order to simulate a large scale failure of the power grid.

*(Continued on page 10)*

Operators demonstrated an excellent commitment to being available and to occupying the frequencies for the duration of their watch. This professional approach by the volunteers augurs well and a high level of commitment can be expected for activations or exercises in the future.

Valuable lessons were learned from the exercises - both from a technical and operational point of view - and these will assist in the future training of volunteers.

It is hoped that good amateur radio skills can be brought to a level where they can mesh with and assist the Professional Services.

All volunteers are to be commended for their work in this important area.

### **Clubs**

There are 35 Club Members of IRTS. This is only two less than the figure at the end of 2000. Although there are no figures to support the view that the majority of Clubs are in a very weak state, the general view is that this is indeed the case. A resurgence in club membership and activity would be a very welcome development but, can anybody suggest how this might be brought about?

### **Publications**

Echo Ireland was published six times during 2003. Difficulties were encountered with the distribution of the May/June issue because of a decision by An Post to implement new sorting requirements for those availing of the Periodical Rate. These new rules considerably increased the work required in the distribution of the Newsletter.

Not only must the copies but inserted in envelopes, labeled and sorted as before, but now must be put into nearly 60 full sized mail bags, all of which require further labeling, even though some bags may only contain a single copy!

IRTS has now engaged a mailing company who take the bulk copies, package these in polythene wrappers, address, bag and post them.

Two substantial postage increases during the year have added considerably to the costs of producing Echo Ireland

A HTML version of Echo Ireland is produced by Joe Ryan EI7GY and made available to "White Stick" members who can thus get a spoken version of the Newsletter by using specially adapted browsers.

### **Rallies**

Hotel and Insurance costs continue to cause difficulties for clubs organizing rallies.

Whilst the number of rallies is now small, the standard provided by the Clubs is high and all members are encouraged to support as far as possible those rallies that remain. For many the social aspect of meeting fellow experimenters, perhaps putting a face to the voice, is as important as stocking up the shack

### **Book Sales**

Peter Grant EI4HX, Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX and Thos Caffrey EI2JD attended all rallies during the year with the bookstand. With the decrease in the number of rallies and the ease of buying books by credit card, a decision has been taken to reduce the stocking level of books, many of which go out of date quickly.

A new IRTS stand is being prepared and Society material, together with a limited range of books, will be present at all rallies.

### **Web-Site**

Leslie Long EI4DU continues to maintain the website, which contains information about the Society and about Amateur Radio generally.

The membership application form available on this site has been an important source of new members for the IRTS.

Independently of the website, the Society maintains an on-line Call Book at:

<http://www.qsl.net/ei7gy/eicalls.html>

This listing is updated regularly. Members are requested to assist Joe EI7GY by informing him of any changes to their details.

### **QSL Service**

Readers of Michael McNamara's regular column in Echo Ireland will gain some idea of the volume of QSL cards arriving from buros abroad. Michael does an initial sort on these cards before passing them on to Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX who distributes them to the sub-Managers

During the year Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI handed over the Outgoing QSL Manager's job to Tony Baldwin EI8JK.

We thank Hugh for providing us with an excellent service in the past and offer Tony our best wishes as he undertakes this important task.

In order to ease his workload we ask members to comply with the rules of the Outgoing buro.

### **Radio News**

The radio news is broadcast weekly on HF and by clubs on VHF from many locations.

Judging by the call-in with reports, these bulletins continue to be very popular with experimenters.

It can be a difficult job producing an interesting script every week.

We ask that members, both individuals and clubs, submit items for the news as often as possible.

You may come across interesting items in magazines, the Web or other media which the editor may not be aware of. These may be of interest to the broader membership, so be sure to pass them on.

### **Awards**

The Worked EI Counties (WEIC) Award seems to still be difficult to obtain. Just 2 new awards were issued during the year.

The Worked All Ireland (WAI) scheme has many enthusiastic members but unfortunately activities have been hampered somewhat by poor conditions on 40 metres.

Two members applied for the ARRL VUCC certificates.

These were awarded for having at least 100 confirmed locator squares on 6 metres and were the first to be awarded in EI

### **VHF**

The first claim for a successful trans-Atlantic QSO on 2 metres was before IRTS during the year. This was in respect of a contact made using a digital mode known as WSJT.

The Brendan Trophy Awards Committee making adjudication on the validity of the claim decided not to accept it. This decision was based on the insufficient level of proof provided and on the applicants' failure to provide adequate information

*(Continued on page 11)*

(Continued from page 10)

within the published timeframe, although the Award committee extended the deadline by six weeks.

Six metre operation continues to increase in popularity in EI with many new operators trying the band. As a result the instant pile up that EI stations used to enjoy is no longer guaranteed!

4 metres also continues to attract new adherents. This is helped by a regular monthly activity night and is popular, particularly with operators in the southern half of the country. This increased activity is good to see as 4 metres is at present only a secondary allocation and may be under threat from commercial interests.

Amateurs in Denmark were granted a small CW 4m allocation during the year. John EI7GL completed the first EI-OZ contact on the band.

2m and 70cm seem to have mixed usage. While some operators have been very successful working DX during the summer E season, FM simplex and repeaters seem very quiet at times.

Perhaps the B licensees who were active on these bands are trying out their new HF privileges!

### Contests

The Society directly organizes 5 contests each year – CW, SSB and VHF/UHF Field Days and Spring and Autumn 2m Counties Contests.

In 2003 following a suggestion at last years' AGM it was decided to hold the two HF (SSB/CW) Field Day events at a central location to see if we could rejuvenate interest in these events.

The CW event was held in June at the QTH of Paddy EI3AV in Cloughjordan Co. Tipperary.

Initial interest indicated that up to 7 stations would be taking part but ultimately only 3 stations were set up.

The event attracted a large number of visitors from far and wide to the site and all enjoyed the experience.

The SSB Field Day was held in the grounds of Garbally College in Ballinasloe.

We are delighted to report that 7 stations set up here and with an independent entry from Cork in the open section, this was an increase of about 400% on previous year's participation. Our thanks to Niall EI4CF and the Shannon Basin Club for their hosting if this event.

At both events there was keen competition between the participants and all enjoyed the social aspect of having a large number of enthusiasts gathered in the same area.

Both field days also demonstrated many fine working examples of portable stations.

Experience gained from these first efforts will help to fine-tune matters for future years.

Field Days are a great opportunity to get some experience of practical radio work and it's a pity that more clubs cannot generate sufficient interest from among their members to enter teams.

Of the seven stations at SSB field day, only three could be classed as club entries.

What about the other 32?

### Members Input

The Society could not operate without the involvement of its members.

In the first instance, they help to maintain it financially through their membership subscriptions.

Secondly, the many hours of unpaid and often unseen effort undertaken by the band of volunteer helpers ensures that the day to day affairs of the Society run smoothly.

The Committee expresses its thanks to all those who contributed in any way to the running of the Society during the year and looks forward to a continuing contribution in 2004.

oooOOOooo

### Committee Elected

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| President      | Sean Donelan EI4GK |
| Vice President | Sean Nolan EI7CD   |

#### Committee

|       |                 |
|-------|-----------------|
| EI2GN | John Ketch      |
| EI2HX | Pat Fitzpatrick |
| EI2JC | Noel Walsh      |
| EI2JD | Thos Caffrey    |
| EI3IX | Joe Fadden      |
| EI4BZ | Dave Moore      |
| EI5GM | Jeremy Sheehan  |
| EI6JA | Stephen O'Leary |
| EI6JK | Mark Condon     |
| EI8JA | John McCarthy   |
| EI9HX | Pat O'Connor    |

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### JOTA 2003 Report Available

The World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM) 2003 JOTA report has just been released and is available for download from:

Part 1 <http://home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/2003/wjr03-1.pdf>  
Executive Summary, and Stats

Part 2 <http://home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/2003/wjr03-2.pdf>  
Press cuttings (Waterford and Wicklow cuttings are included)

Part 3 <http://www.home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/2003/wjr03-3.pdf> National Reports A - Peru

Part 4 <http://www.home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/2003/wjr03-4.pdf> National Reports Poland - U

Part 5 <http://www.home.zonnet.nl/worldscout/Jota/2003/wjr03-5.pdf> National Reports V - Z, Kits, Forthcoming events etc.

The hardcopy of the report will be published by WOSM in the coming weeks.

Seán Ó'Súilleabháin  
<http://www.qsl.net/ei3ip>

**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**  
**Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003**  
**Presented to the Annual General Meeting at the Greenhills Hotel, Limerick on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2004.**

I have pleasure in presenting the accounts for the year 2003 for the approval of the meeting.

The Society's accounts show a surplus of €3526 for the year and this amount has been added to the General Reserve. The amount of the General Reserve is now in excess of €38,000. The Society, for an organisation of its size, remains in a strong position financially.

The general rise in the cost of living is reflected as an increase in a number of areas of the accounts such as printing, postage and room rent. It is reasonable to assume that this pattern will continue for next year. As we did not produce a Year Book this year the absence of this cost contributed to our favourable surplus.

Our Society has always had the objective of providing its members with the highest level of service for the lowest practicable subscription. I am pleased to say that this situation has not changed. It can only be maintained by members of the Society carrying out the work on a voluntary basis. An increase in the number of members who would be willing to undertake work on behalf of the Society would be appreciated.

The annual subscription is the life blood of the Society and I would like to thank all those who paid their subscriptions, in particular, all who pay the subscription on receipt of the first advice. These early replies reduce the number of subsequent reminders that have to be issued with a consequent reduction in the cost of stationery and postage. I would like to remind you again of the availability of our Direct Debit facility and ask you to consider paying your subscription that way. I have the appropriate application forms.

The pursuit of subscriptions and issue of news letters would be very difficult were it not for the work of Joe Ryan who developed and continues to maintain the database of the membership, many thanks Joe. My thanks also goes to our two auditors who keep me in line and look after all our interests.

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Brendan De hÓra EI3GV  
 Hon. Treasurer.

**Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003**

|  | 2002    | 2002   | 2003    | 2003    |
|--|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>  |         |        |         |         |
| Equipment  |         | Nil    |         | Nil     |
| Prize Bonds  |         | £89    |         | €89     |
| Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.                               |         | £794   |         | €754    |
| <b>Current Assets</b>  |         |        |         |         |
| Stock for Re-sale  | £4,304  |        | €4,566  |         |
| Cash on Deposit  | €24,064 |        | €24,414 |         |
| Cash at Bank   | €4,480  |        | €8,764  |         |
|  |         | €2,848 |         | €37,744 |
|  |         | -----  |         | -----   |
| <b><u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u></b>                     |         | €3,691 |         | €38,587 |
|  |         | =====  |         | =====   |
| <b>Represented by:</b>   |         |        |         |         |
| General Reserve  |         | €1,180 |         | €34,806 |
| IARU Conference Reserve  |         | €2,511 |         | €3,781  |
|  |         | -----  |         | -----   |
|  |         | €3,691 |         | €38,587 |
|  |         | =====  |         | =====   |
| <b>Dublin ARC Disbursements Account</b>                              |         |        |         |         |
| Balance remaining for disbursement at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2003 |         | €243   |         | €243    |
|  |         |        |         | =====   |

Signed  
 Brendan De hÓra EI3G,  
 Hon. Treasurer

# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Income and Expenditure Account  
for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003

| INCOME                       | 2002       | 2003       |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Subscriptions                | €19,892    | €20,711    |
| Donations                    | €118       | €105       |
| Advertising                  | €85        | €220       |
| Book Sales                   | (€290)     | €618       |
| Investment Income            | €668       | €177       |
| Morse Tests                  | €204       | €51        |
| WEIC                         |            | €20        |
| Sundry Income                | €1         | €1         |
|                              | -----      | -----      |
|                              | €20,688    | €22,320    |
|                              | =====      | =====      |
| <br>EXPENDITURE              |            |            |
| Newsletter Printing          | €5,087     | €6,504     |
| Newsletter Postage           | €2,714     | €3,475     |
| Postage & Telephone          | €1,017     | €843       |
| Yearbook Printing            | €2,085     | 0          |
| Radio News                   | €200       | 0          |
| QSL Service Outwards         | €957       | €700       |
| QSL Service Inwards          | €410       | €60        |
| Stationery & Admin.          | €1,477     | €111       |
| P.O. Box Rental              | €216       | €220       |
| Insurance                    | €492       | €479       |
| Committee Meetings           | €609       | €711       |
| AGM Costs                    | €120       | €64        |
| IARU Dues                    | €1,093     | €1,042     |
| EI0RTS Licence Fee           | €10        | €10        |
| Depreciation                 | Nil        | Nil        |
| Conference Reserve           | €1,270     | €1,270     |
| Bank Charges                 | €320       | €371       |
| Trophies                     | €400       | €331       |
| Website Costs                | €202       | €151       |
| Misc.                        | €40        | €394       |
| Subs D/D not paid            | 0          | €159       |
|                              | -----      | -----      |
|                              | €18,719    | €18,694    |
|                              | -----      | -----      |
| <br>Surplus/Deficit for Year | <br>€1,969 | <br>€3,626 |
|                              | -----      | -----      |

# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts  
for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003

## 1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account.

Subscriptions covering any period after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002 were not treated as prepaid.

No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

## 2. General Reserve

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2003 | €31,180 |
| Add: Surplus for year 2003                 | €3,626  |
|  | -----   |

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2003 | €34,806 |
|  | =====   |

## 3. Equipment

All Equipment in the possession of the Society has been fully depreciated.

## 4. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price (€2.29 per share).

The Market Value of these shares on 17th January 2004 was €4,485 (330 shares @ €13.59)

## 5. Cash on Deposit

|                               |         |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                               | 2002    | 2003    |
| Irish Life and Permanent plc. | €24,064 | €24,414 |

## 6. IARU Conference Reserve

|  |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|
|  | 2002   | 2003   |
| Balance on 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan.              | €2,511 | €2,511 |
| Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account |        | €1,270 |
|  |        | -----  |
|  |        | €3,781 |
| Less Expenses 2003                           |        | 0      |
|  |        | -----  |
| Balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2003    |        | €3,781 |

## Auditors Report

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

Thomas McLoughlin EI400

Ger Gervin EI8CC



## The Holy Grail - CW and All That...

By Billy O'Connor EI7CQ

Amateurs Log star date 150903.

I fire up my sturdy laptop to do some surfing on the world wide web, "right, where to says I to myself". "Lets try the ComReg site" says a tiny little voice inside my head. With a right click on my sturdy little optical mouse.

Hey presto, there before me very eyes is the web of the governing body of radio experimenting in Echo India.

As I peruse the site something catches my eye, "**Announcement 15 September 2003**". I casually begin to read same and find I am taken aback by its contents. Do I see right, or are my eyes deceiving me? I quickly glance at the large clock above my head to see what date it is, no, its not April 1<sup>st</sup>.

This can't be right says I to myself, I must be on the wrong web site. A quick check confirms that no, I'm on the right site, what is before me must be correct. Hands all a tremble, I tentatively reach for my trusty mouse, right click and my printer comes alive. With bated breath I await that little piece of paper. It seems to take forever (mental note to myself – must get a faster printer).

Finally the paper falls onto my desktop, quickly pick it up and fully expect to see in big bold letters "GOT YEAH" but no, the pages content match what is on the screen before me on the ComReg site.

Suddenly a myriad of thoughts rush through my mind and as the realization of the information before me sinks in, my heart skips a beat.

I've got to tell someone, but who? I know, DavA, I must tell DavA is the only thing going through my mind. Right, log off, close down the laptop, pick up the phone and slowly but quite surely I dial my best buddy's number. Yes, its ringing – and – ringing and ringing. For Gods sake DavA be there! Finally the receiver on the other side is picked up and "Hi Billa, what's up?" (bloody caller ID).

**"DavA, you're not going to believe what I've got in my hand"**, - what says DavA, tell me ---(dramatic pause)---

**They've done it DavA, they've done it**, who's done what now says DavA.

**"THEY HAVE REMOVED THE REQUIREMENT TO DO THE MORSE TEST"**.

Go away with yourself, says DavA, **no says I, its gospel, they have finally done it!!!!!!**

Forgive me, for I jest, as oft I am liable to do and such matters do not warrant such flippancy.

The reason that I've been prompted to write this article as is a result of a conversation I recently had on my local repeater (R6, the best repeater in Echo India).

During the discussion a comment was made, an opinion expressed and while the following is not an exact quote, it is a good approximation **"it's a shame they have done away with the Morse code – we have lowered that standard of amateur radio"**.

This for me was the straw that broke the camels back, such statements really get up my nostrils and those that know me will tell you that they are some nostrils hi hi!.

Since September 15<sup>th</sup> 2003 I've heard similar comments and opinions being expressed both on the air and in print and while I fully support everyone being entitled to have their own opinion on said subject, I am saddened to hear such comments and statements.

I particularly do not like the intimation that by removing the Morse requirement, the great hobby of radio is all the poorer or going to be damaged or suffer because of it.

Now having said that, let me state my own position on the subject.

From my SWL days, through acquiring my B class license to the present day, I've admired and been in awe of those individuals who took the time and made the effort to study and pass the Morse test and have the ability to decipher those dits and dots.

Let me say I've enjoyed it all so far and am now looking forward to trawling through the portion of the spectrum that up to now was denied me.

But lets be honest here, Morse is an acquired taste just as frogs legs are.

Some people have a musical ear and Morse probably comes easily to them, others with a dogged determination will persist and pass the Morse test.

With the greatest will in the world, there are going to be a small proportion of people who will never be able to learn Morse no matter what they do.

Well, to steal a quote from my best buddy, **"the Lord said there are many rooms in my Fathers house"** and so it

is that there are a myriad of differing types of people participating in this hobby of ours.

I've always believed that no one should be excluded from the HF portion of the radio spectrum just because they are unable to master what is in effect an art, i.e. Morse.

I firmly believe that we should be all inclusive and not separatist which I believe requiring a person to pass a Morse test to gain access to HF, was.

At the end of the day what you were being required to do was to become proficient in one particular mode of communication above any other mode at our disposal.

As for the mindset of those who believe we are lowering the standard of our great hobby by removing the Morse requirement, lets look at this opinion.

First and foremost, Morse is not a standard, it is a mode of communication, one of the many which we use on a regular basis.

The only standard that I can see is Morse at 12 wpm, which was reduced to 5 wpm and subsequently withdrawn. So please explain to me where the standard being lowered is, none that I am aware of or can see.

People should not get all emotional about this, we should look at what has been done. The governing bodies have removed the Morse test requirement to gain access to the HF portion of the radio spectrum but they have not outlawed its use.

Remember the Morse test is still in place, all that has changed is we now have level playing field and every experimenter in Echo India now has full privileges i.e. unrestricted access to the radio spectrum.

Those that take the Morse test are still issued with a two letter callsign and those that do not are issued with a three letter callsign.

No change there, for my money I can only see two changes; 1 – we no longer have the A and B licenses which removes the 'I am better than you' attitudes and 2 – Morse is no longer the blunt instrument used to deny experimenters access to a portion of the radio spectrum.

What we have now is Morse as an achievement by those that put the time

*(Continued on page 15)*

(Continued from page 14)

and effort into passing it, rewarded by the issuing of a two letter callsign in recognition of their effort.

Another thing that seems to be overlooked is that Morse is the only mode which has its own band i.e. 10MHz, no other mode is allowed to be used there. No other mode has or is ever likely to be given its own band.

What I see is that we have been given the singular golden opportunity to keep Morse alive. The fact that all commercial and professional bodies have ceased using Morse leaves us in the unique position of being the guardians of the mode and instead of spending our time moaning, we would be better off directing our efforts in encouraging more people to use it.

Who knows even BillA and DavA may some day pull out the proverbial finger and be head pounding the key – stranger things have been known to happen.

Begrudgers beware, if you spend all your time and efforts cribbing about the fact that you had to do it, so why should not everyone else, Morse, as we know it, could disappear from the mode switch of HF rigs just as AM did in the past. This is a vast and varied hobby we are a part of, with new modes of operation appearing on the bands every other day, things change, life goes on.

Morse on the other hand, I believe, is a whole different animal. If it were to cease in the morning, people would definitely miss it, as is evident by the many disgruntled opinions etc. that prompted me to pen this letter, even though Morse is not being interfered with, only removed as a requirement for access to a section of the radio spectrum.

So, lets live and let live and get on with the business of enjoying this wonderful hobby of ours. Before I close this letter and wait for the lambasting that surely will follow, let me say that not all the comments I've heard were negative ones, I have received many well wishes and welcomes to HF.

Hopefully, I have encouraged some constructive thought on the subject, instead of the begrudging attitude I have encountered thus far, and I pray that I have not shot myself in the foot and alienated myself within this thoroughly enjoyable hobby of ours.

Maybe we will meet on R6 or on HF sometime in the future.

Until then best 73s to one and all.

BillA EI7CQB

## 4 Metres in North Wales

By Rob MW0DNK

Following a brief presentation on the possibilities of the 4m metre band by Rob MW0DNK to his local club, The Dragon Amateur Radio Club, in Anglesey, North Wales, several new stations are now operating on the band!

Current stations QRV on the band include Rob MW0DNK (FM); Dave GW4JKR (FM); Steve GW0GEI (FM, with SSB/CW coming soon); Patrick GW!SXN (FM); John MW0BER (FM); Kevin MW1CFA (FM); Chris GW1VLW (active for many years); with Rob MW0REH and Brian GW4KAZ, an old hand at 4m, joining us soon. Some stations are ideally situated to work Ireland and the North West of England and beyond with ease.

All stations will be keeping a watch on the UK FM calling frequency 70.450 MHz, and keeping a keen ear on the Irish FM calling frequency 70.2625 MHz.

Initial tests on the band confirm that conventional propagation is indeed be generous compared with 2m, with many stations operating simple antennas and low power with excellent results. Most stations have opted for Ascom SE550 transceivers, and would be interested to hear if any nets have been able to use selective calling by upgrading their software.

So, if you are in the area or visiting this summer, or based in Ireland and would like to work us - we all look forward very much to meeting you on the band.

Robert Law IEng FIIE (MW0DNK)

Tel: 01286 650048

email: rob.law@lineone.net

(My thanks to Rob G3XFD/EI5IW, Editor of Practical Wireless for passing this on. Dave EI4BZ)

## News from Irishwan.

### The non-profit wireless internet provider

Irishwan is having a national meeting of those interested in using wireless to provide internet access.

Using licence equipment many homes have been linked to share the costs of high speed internet connections. This national meeting to be held in Waterford is a follow on from many previous regional meetings and national meetings. Irishwan is a collection of Radio Experimenters and computer hobbyists who are creating an alternative to expensive profit-making providers.

It will be held on Saturday the 24th of April from 1130 am in the auditorium of Waterford Institute of Technology on the Cork road. As well as demonstrations and talks on the use of the equipment there will be a bring and buy stall for second-hand wireless networking hardware.

Details will also be given on how to connect to the South East network which already covers parts of Wexford and Waterford. Admission is 5 euros and those attending are asked to arrive early as the talks will begin on time.

For more details see the Irishwan web site: [Http://www.irishwan.org](http://www.irishwan.org)

Dublin WAN the Dublin branch of Irishwan have increased their coverage in South West Dublin City. A new public access node has been installed which will allow home users in the Crumlin, Kimmage and Harolds Cross areas of the city access the services.

For a non profit cost of 30 euros a month wireless access to the internet is being provided. This has the benefits of not requiring a land line with the associated line rental charges and also does not require the phone-line tests. For those that already have internet access other services such as network gaming and file sharing are available at no cost.

The Dublin committee will help set up people who know nothing about wireless so please contact us if you live in the area. For more details see the DublinWAN web site

[Http://www.dublinwan.org](http://www.dublinwan.org)



## The Shannon Basin Challenge



The Shannon Basin Club ran a one-day challenge on the first Sunday of last November and the trophies were presented at the IRTS AGM.

Declan Lennon EI9HQ from Dublin was the winner of the Lough Allen Shield as the top entrant in the SSB Section.  
(Top picture: EI6HW and EI9HQ)

Brian Canning EI8IU from County Leitrim won the Lough Ree Shield as the leading CW entrant.  
(Middle Picture: EI6HW and EI8IU)

The Lough Derg Shield was presented to Ger McNamara EI-1476 from Limerick for winning the SWL section.  
(Bottom Picture: EI6HW and EI 1476)

This challenge is an annual event and the shield will be competed for again in November. The Shannon Basin Club thanks all who supported last years event and they welcome comments or suggestions on the running of this years challenge.

## DXCC Rule Change

At its January meeting in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors removed paragraph 1.c) from the criteria for determining a DXCC Entity. This provision, implemented in 1998 as part of the DXCC 2000 Program, had provided that "An Entity will be added to the DXCC List as a Political Entity if it ... has a separate IARU Member Society."

Since that time, the rule has allowed for the addition of four new DXCC Entities and the retention of one existing Entity.

At the time it was not expected that this would create difficulties with the administration of the IARU. Unfortunately, the provision has had the unintended consequence of stimulating applications for IARU membership that do not further the objectives of the IARU, creating an unfortunate and unnecessary administrative burden.

The rule change will have no effect on those Entities created by or as the result of the rule. According to DXCC Rule II, 5. C), "A change in the DXCC Criteria shall not affect the status of any Entity on the DXCC List at the time of the change."

The other two criteria for the determination of a Political Entity for DXCC continue in effect:

- The entity is a UN Member State.
- The entity (except international organizations) has been assigned a callsign prefix block by the ITU.

The text of the Board resolution reads:

WHEREAS, the DXCC 2000 program adopted by the Board in 1998 included changes to the criteria for a DXCC entity, and

WHEREAS, one of the new criteria makes separate IARU membership the basis for determination of a "political entity," and

WHEREAS, this rule has served a constructive purpose with respect to existing IARU societies, but

WHEREAS, the rule also has had unforeseen consequences in creating an incentive for the creation of proposed IARU societies that do not further the objectives of the IARU, and

RECOGNIZING that elimination of the rule has no effect on the DXCC entities that already have been created as a result of the rule,

RESOLVED, that the DXCC rules are hereby amended by deleting IARU membership as a basis for determination of a "political entity."

## Contest Calendar

### May 2004

|         |           |                              |             |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1/2nd   | 2000-2000 | ARI Int. DX Contest          | CW/SSB/Digi |
| 1/2nd   | 0000-2400 | MARAC County Hunters Contest | CW          |
| 8/9th   | 2100-2100 | CQ-M Int. DX Contest         | CW/SSB/SSTV |
| 15/16th | 0000-2400 | US Counties QSO Party        | SSB         |
| 15/16th | 1800-1800 | H.M. King of Spain Contest   | CW          |
| 22/23rd | 2100-0200 | Baltic Contest               | CW/SSB      |
| 29/30th | 0000-2359 | CQWW WPX Contest             | CW          |

### June 2004

|         |           |                             |     |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----|
| 5/6th   | 1500-1500 | IARU Region 1 Field Day     | CW  |
| 12th    | 0000-2400 | Portugal Day Contest        | SSB |
| 12/13th | 0000-1600 | WW South America Contest    | CW  |
| 19/20th | 0000-2400 | All Asian DX Contest        | CW  |
| 26/27th | 1400-1400 | Marconi Memorial Contest HF | CW  |
| 26/27th | 1800-1800 | H.M. King of Spain Contest  | SSB |

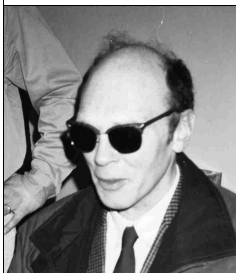
## Trophy Winners at the IRTS AGM

**Arup Cup**  
Service to the  
hobby

**Aedan O'Meara**  
**EI3EG**

**Sheila Piper Cup**  
IRTS  
News Services

**Dave Moore**  
**EI4BZ**



## Cork Packet News

In late January, Jim EI8GS and John EI8IR put the Cork digipeater back on air.

The digi had been off air for the last few months and was in need of an overhaul. The 2m radio has been replaced, and a new antenna and feeder installed at the site.

The Digipeater is located on Seefin, overlooking Millstreet in Co. Cork.

The digipeater operates on 144.600 and 439.875 into a omni directional antenna.

Despite the drop-off in the numbers of packet users over the past few years, the network is still operational working well. The Tipperary BBS run by John EI3DIB in Ardfinnian is operational with an access frequency of 144.850.

The East Cork DXCluster EI8IR is accessible on 144.600, and is connected in real time to the worldwide DXcluster network via an internet wormhole, which provides the DX spot almost instantly. There is a lot of packet equipment out there, why not dust it off and give it another go.

## Theory Examination

In conjunction with ComReg a Radio Theory Examination was recently held in Dublin. Although 18 candidates registered to sit the exam only 16 turned up on the day. The results have recently come to hand and it is a pleasure to report that 11 of those were successful. Our thanks go to ComReg who provided the venue for the exam and to Dan Lloyd EI3AE who set and marked the papers.

Candidates for an examination should communicate with Derek O'Reilly of ComReg



## New rules for outgoing QSLs

By Tony Baldwin EI8JK Outgoing QSL Manager

Those of you that send out QSL cards will have noticed that there are no longer any labels on the Echo Ireland envelopes. We have therefore taken the opportunity to amend the rules and removed the need for a current label to be included with your QSLs. I will now check the packets against a list of paid up members to make sure you are eligible for this service. All the other rules stay the same, i.e. sorting your cards into the various countries, etc.

On the subject of countries, quite a few of you appear not to have noticed the break-up of the USSR. There are several that think that a "U" prefix is exclusively Russian and sort UN (Kazakhstan) and UR/UT (Ukraine) with the Russian cards. These countries have their own QSL bureaux and should be kept separate, as should UA2 (Kalingrad) which has just started its own bureau.

There is a growing list of countries that have no QSL bureau at all, you can check them for yourself on the list below, but some of them will come as a surprise to many.

For instance Morocco (CN) has just joined the list along with Cape Verde (D4) and Egypt (SU). If you work one of the countries on the list and need their QSL card, please make sure you do this direct as any cards sent to me will only be returned, adding to the postage expenses.

A useful web site for finding QSL managers of stations that you worked and forgot to ask, is <http://www.ik3qar.it/manager/>

## Countries with no QSL Bureau

|      |                  |     |               |
|------|------------------|-----|---------------|
| A3   | Tonga            | A51 | Bhutan        |
| A6   | UAE              | C21 | Nauru         |
| D2   | Angola           | D4  | Cape Verde    |
| E3   | Eritrea          | HM  | North Korea   |
| HZ   | Saudi Arabia     | J5  | Guinea-Bissau |
| J6   | St Lucia         | J8  | St Vincent    |
| S7   | Seychelles       | S9  | Sao Tome      |
| ST   | Sudan            | SU  | Egypt         |
| T2   | Tuvalu           | T3  | Kiribati      |
| T5   | Somalia          | TJ  | Cameroon      |
| TL   | C African Rep    | TN8 | Congo         |
| TT8  | Chad             | TY  | Benin         |
| V4   | St Kitts Nevis   | V6  | Micronesia    |
| VP2E | Anguilla         | XU  | Campuchea     |
| XW   | Laos             | XZ  | Mynamar       |
| YA   | Afghanistan      | ZD7 | St Helena     |
| ZD9  | Tristan da Cunha | 3B  | Mauritius     |
| 3W   | Vietnam          | 3X  | Guinea        |
| 4J   | Azerbaijan       | 5A  | Libya         |
| 5R   | Madagascar       | 5T  | Mauritania    |
| 5U   | Nigeria          | 5V  | Togo          |
| 7O   | Yemen            | 7P  | Lesotho       |
| 7Q7  | Malawi           | 8Q  | Maldives      |
| 9N   | Nepal            | 9Q  | Zaire         |
| 9U   | Burundi          | 9X  | Rwanda        |

Latest additions to the list:

|    |          |    |                   |
|----|----------|----|-------------------|
| CN | Morocco  | P2 | Papua N Guinea    |
| PZ | Suriname | UK | Uzbekistan        |
| ZA | Albania  | 9Y | Trinidad & Tobago |

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society AGM 2004 Trophy Winners - Groups

|                                |   |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| IRTS IOTA Trophy               | Leading EJ Station in IOTA Contest        | EJ7M, The East Cork Group       |
| The Presidents Cup             | Awarded for their Cross-border activities | South Dublin Radio Club, EI2SDR |
| The Pete Daly Cup              | CW Field Day Open Section                 | Cork Radio Club, EI1X/p         |
| The Paddy Smyth Cup            | CW Field Day Restricted Section           | East Cork Radio Group, EI7M/p   |
| The Paddy Daly Microphone      | SSB Field Day Open Section                | Cork Radio Club, EI1C/p         |
| The IRTS HF Shield             | SSB Field Day Restricted Section          | Dalkey Is. Group, EI1DD/p       |
| Thomond Trophy                 | VHF/UHF Field Day Open Section            | Southern Network ARC, EI9E/p    |
| IRTS VHF Shield                | VHF/UHF Field Day Restricted Section      | Dundalk ARS, EI5DAR/P           |
| The Ian Morris Memorial Trophy | Not Awarded                               |                                 |

### Power Line Transmission – An Update

The experiments on Power Line Transmission planned by the ESB in the Galway area have fallen well behind their original schedule. Originally scheduled to commence in Autumn 2003, the new start-up date is May 2004.

Equipment to run the system was installed in the Tuam area during March but was switched off and disabled pending the commencement of the experiments. During the Easter period some visiting amateurs detected serious interference in an area of the radio spectrum that would cause serious problems for amateurs operating on two of the most popular HF bands. When this fact was pointed out the ESB an admission was received that the PLT equipment was, in fact, switched on and enabled on the days concerned.

ESB has been very open with IRTS on the subject of PLT and has been generous in offering facilities to facilitate a survey following switch on of the programme.

A further PLT issue has recently arisen. Smart Telecom have plans to install a Broadband system in schools in the Dublin Liberties. Although the signal is not received over power lines the plan is to distribute it within the schools on the electrical mains. One school has already been switched on and the remaining schools in the area will be added over a period.

An initial survey by local amateurs in the vicinity of the school did not detect any unusual interference other than that

normally found in a built up area. However, a more comprehensive and detailed survey is required before it can be stated with certainty that the system in the Liberties schools is “clean”. This survey will be undertaken during the coming school term.

The pollution of the radio spectrum is not a new phenomenon. Amateurs and other radio users have been living with it for many years. What is new is the potential to create massive and widespread interference to users of the bands in the interests of another method of delivering a broadband internet service.

The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has requested the ESB to conduct PLT experiments and is reportedly putting up the necessary cash.

Surely, if the Minister has spare cash, another and more deserving use can be found for it – like, for instance, an adequately resourced AREN network.

IRTS has no problem with the ESB conducting experiments in PLT.

It does, however, believe in the principle of a level playing field. If the amateur community is not permitted to interfere with other users of the radio spectrum – then neither should the ESB, Eircom or Smart Telecom. A major burden now falls on the Radio Regulator – Com-Reg – to detect and measure the extent of interference, if any, arising from the PLT experiments.

IRTS will be conducting its own surveys in the on-going effort to protect the interests of the amateur community.

### VHF Squares Tables

The 2004 Squares table is being run by the new VHF manager, Thos Caffrey EI2JD. Please submit your scores to him and they will as usual be available on the EI7GL web site

### South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

The Annual General Meeting of the Group took place on the 25th of February last.

The committee for the coming year are as follows;

Mark Wall EI7IS stays on as Chairperson and John McCarthy EI8JA continues as Secretary.









Vice Chairperson is Eoin EI7FXB and Mick EI5DCB continues as Treasurer.

The committee officers are, Egidio EI9EQ, Eddie EI9DJB and Jim EI4DT.

The election of officers was followed by questions and answers and Jim Farrell EI8IG demonstrated the ATV repeater in Helvick.

Congratulations to Rob EI2GPB and Gerry EI2GNB on their new callsigns. Both Rob and Gerry completed the theory course with South Eastern Amateur Radio Group.

## IRTS 2m Counties Contest Winners 2003

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| Niall EI4CF<br>Spring 2003<br>High Power Fixed                                   | Tom EI7HT<br>Spring 2003<br>Low Power Fixed                                       | EI2SBC (EI9HX op)<br>Spring 2003<br>FM Only                                       | Paul EI2JF<br>Spring 2003<br>Low Power/p   |
|  |  |  |  |
| Hugh EI2HI<br>Autumn 2003<br>High Power Fixed                                    | Tom EI7HT<br>Autumn 2003<br>Low Power Fixed                                       | John EI4HS/p<br>Autumn 2003<br>Low Power/p  | Joe EI7GY/p<br>Autumn 2003<br>FM Only  |

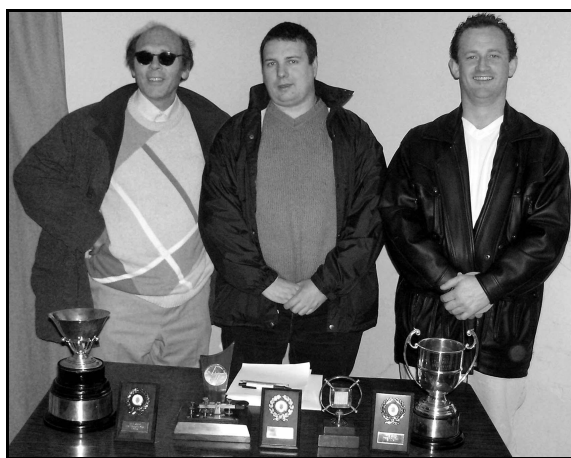
## Cork Radio Club AGM

The Cork Radio Club Annual General Meeting was held last Monday night at the clubrooms in Wilton Park House. A very successful year was reviewed and the trophies won were displayed. Wins were earned in the CW Field Day open section and the SSB Field Day open section, a first for the club. The rally was once again very successful and the club now has a modern HF and VHF station available for members use.

Congratulations were extended to Aedan EI3EG for winning the Arup Cup for his services to the hobby and to Jeremy EI5GM for winning the Hal Hodgins Key in the IOTA Contest. Both these trophies were awarded at the recent IRTS AGM.

The following committee was elected for the coming year: Chairman is Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM, Secretary is Stephen O'Leary EI6JA, Treasurer is Dick Bermingham EI6HH and IRTS Representative is Fr. Finbarr Buckley EI1CS.

Committee Members are:  
Aedan O'Meara EI3EG, Vincent Neff EI7HN, Fr. Finbar Buckley EI1CS and Anatoly EI4JM.



Aedan EI3EG, Stephen EI6JA, club secretary and Jeremy EI5GM club chairman pictured with the trophies won by the club during 2003. They include the open section of both the CW and SSB field days. Aedan got the Arup Cup and Jeremy won the Hal Hodgins Key.

## Thinking Day On The Air

Girl Guides from the Dublin area took part in Thinking Day on the Air from their Headquarters in Harrington Street on February 22nd..

This was an opportunity for the members of the Guide Movement to talk to other members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world via Amateur Radio. The 22nd February is Thinking Day because it was the birthday of Lord Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Scout and Guide movements, and his wife Olave, who was the first World Chief Guide.

On this day each year members of WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) remember the founders of the movement and take part in various activities to think about their sisters throughout the world.

The Dublin Guides operated from their Headquarters in Harrington Street under the callsign EI8CGI.

## Slievenamon Perpetual Trophy.

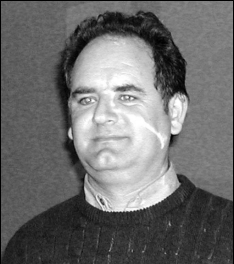


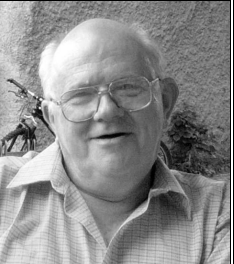


There have been changes to the rules for the Slievenamon Trophy. Up to now, activity was confined to the Sundays in July but this has now been extended to cover the whole month of July. Activity is on 70cms FM only.

## New Propagation Software

New propagation prediction software called "HamCAP" has just been released by Alex VE3NEA the author of the famous DX Atlas and Ionoprobe amateur radio programs. The new propagation software is completely free and available for downloading at <http://www.dxatlas.com/hamcap/>. The program operates alone but also interfaces with DX Atlas and Ionoprobe if you have these programs already installed.

You need to enter your own QTH Coordinates and the DX station callsign. The program will then provide the propagation information in a amateur radio user friendly format. Try it for yourself its free.

## Individual Operating Award Winners at the 2004 IRTS A. G. M.

|  |   |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <b>The EI7IQ<br/>6 Metre Shield<br/>Leading 6m Op.</b>                           | <b>The EI7IQ<br/>4 Metre Shield<br/>Leading 4m Op.</b>                            | <b>The Tom<br/>Donellan Cup<br/>CQWW CW</b>                                       | <b>The<br/>IRTS DX Cup<br/>IOTA Single-Op</b>                                      | <b>The Hal<br/>Hodgens Key<br/>IOTA 12 Hour CW</b>                                  | <b>The Slievenamon<br/>Shield<br/>70cm FM Activity</b>                              |
| <b>Thos Caffrey<br/>EI2JD</b>  | <b>Dave Court<br/>EI3IO</b>   | <b>Dave Moore<br/>EI4BZ</b>   | <b>Jim Barry<br/>EI8GS</b>   | <b>Jeremy Sheehan<br/>EI5GM</b>   | <b>Hugh O'Donnell<br/>EI2HI</b>   |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

### International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend 2004

This highly popular annual August event attracts hundreds of amateur radio stations at lighthouses and lightships,. There were 369 entrants in 48 countries in 2003.

The event is organised by Mike, GM4SUC and Kevin, VK2CE is the web-master.

This year the period of the event is from 0001 UTC on Saturday the 21st of August until 2359 UTC on Sunday the 22nd of August 2004.

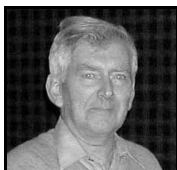
The event is NOT a contest. It is a special event weekend when each group decides how it will operate with regard to modes and bands.

Participants are not committed to being on the air during the entire period. There are no restrictions on antennas or power.

To assist other stations in the identification of lighthouse/lightship stations it is suggested that participating stations using CW add LS after their callsign at a lightship and LT at a lighthouse. SSB and other modes should use LIGHT, LGT, LIGHTHOUSE or LIGHTSHIP after their call.

If you would like to participate, please register on-line at [illw.net/index.html](http://illw.net/index.html) with details of your name, callsign to be used, lighthouse/lightship, Country, QSL route etc.

Although registration is not compulsory, doing so enables the organisers to maintain a detailed list of participants at [illw.net/2004.htm](http://illw.net/2004.htm) showing QSL address, web site and any special event calls they may be using.



### Reading the Mail By Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #29 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS QSL Bureau activity from 23 January to 20 March 2004.

I am pleased to say that small packets (less than 1 kilo) came from ARA Azores, ARRL, EDR, G3TXF, IARC Israel, JARL, K8AZ, LABRE Fortaleza, NZART, OVSV Austria, UT5SI, UN0LE, and VK5-buro.

On the other hand, I was well occupied with larger parcels that came from the Dutch QSL Buro, RAAG Greece, SRR Russia, (1 – 2 kilos each), PZK Poland and URE (3 - 4k each), the RSGB 5k, and one heavyweight from DARC coming with the usual 9.5k of cards.

Cards from the following were noticed and thought worthy of listing:

A52DX, A61AJ, DP1POL, E30NA, ET3PMW, EY8MM, GB50, GB90RSGB/34, R1ANC, S05X, SW2B, TN3W, UA1PBI, UQ10AB, V31YN, V51AS, V51KC, XT2OW, 2E0OOO, 3DA0NX, 3W2NWS, 3W9HRN, 3XY7C, 4O8/9X0A, 4O8AA, 7X0DX, and 8N2JHQ.

As well as cards from Brazilian, Canadian, Croatian, Greek, Japanese and Spanish islands, for IOTA chasers the following were noticed:

AH3C, C98DC, CE0Y/LX1NO, D68C, DX0L, ED1ONS, EG9IA, FO0AAA, H2Q, H40T, HC8N, MD4K, KH2DI/KH0, KH8/DL2AH, KH0/JF1RPZ, KH0AA, R1AP, RA1OZ/A, RI0CB, RK3IWT/1, RL3AA/1, RU3ST/1, RU6AX/6, S92SV, SW5AI, SW8LH, SZ8LH, UA1AIR, UA1PAO/p, V31JZ, VQ9PH, ZL7/G3TXF, 3B8MM, 3G0Y, 5K0Z, 5R8GZ, and 5W0AH. Congratulations to all recipients.

Having decided many years ago that cards from Japan come out top in design ratings, I thought that these two recent arrivals deserve to be shown.

What do you think?

For now, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL.



# Contest Corner

With Dave EI4BZ

ei4bz@eircom.net

With the coming of the long evenings we begin to think of field days and portable activity again.

## 2m Counties

The first opportunity of the season to get out portable was the 2m Counties contest held on Easter Monday.

A few made the effort but the impression is that participation was slightly down on last years event.

QSO numbers were high with a few stations but several notable counties were not heard on the day.

Once again the South Dublin Club were to the fore and had quite a few members on the air. It looks like we may have a few new names on the trophies after this one.

## CW Field Day

The June bank holiday weekend is not too far away and anyone contemplating getting involved in CW Field Day should make contact with the Contest manager, Noel EI2JC as soon as possible.

Last years event promised much but when the day came all we had was two clubs from Cork and a single operator entry, Joe EI7GY.

It is hoped that we can again hold a centrally located field day but the feeling is that a minimum of five station is required to justify everybody travelling.

So far it is not looking very good. We have over thirty affiliated clubs, surely we can do better than two?

## VHF/UHF Field Day

The first weekend in July is the time for the VHF/UHF Field Day and all operators should note the changes to the scoring this year. (See elsewhere in this issue).

The new scoring should encourage more activity in the open section and should provide for more competition on individual bands.

The SSB Field Day was very successful last year and groups should now be planning their trip to Ballinasloe for the event.

The Contest Manager will be pleased to advise any groups thinking of getting involved.



# Emergency Communications

With John Ketch EI2GN

## Coordinating Panel Activity

The Emergency communications group is continuing to add members to its ranks and is entering the second phase of its development through a series of Coordinating Panel meetings designed to consolidated its structure and to examine its role in the provision of voluntary emergency communications in Ireland.

The Panel is also examining and refining the training structure and carrying out an assessment of the technical resources available now and required in the future for the development of the service.

## Alert Status

Members of the Emergency Network Group are currently on alert status due to prevailing international political conditions, Ireland current role in the European Union and the pending visit by the American President.

This is not a training exercise but a real-time activation of the members of the group who have made themselves available to assist with communications in the event of an emergency situation.

## Cork Joint Emergency Planning Group

Arising from communications with the Emergency Management Officer of the Cork Joint Emergency Planning Group where the function and role of Voluntary Emergency Communications were explained, it has been decided by that group to hold a forum in September next in order to facilitate liaison between the voluntary organisations listed in the plan and the people who are engaged on it on a full time basis.

This is an opportunity for the group to integrate with both voluntary and professional services, initially at a local level. It is also importantly, a real opportunity to forge links with groups such as the ambulance service, police, voluntary ambulance groups and the civil defence, which can be developed at a national level.

## Training

Arising from the alert status situation and the opportunity to participate in the Cork Joint Emergency Planning Group forum the coordinating panel are prioritising the training programme. Two methods of training people are under

examination at the moment, one centralised training sessions held over a period of time which are attended by members an two, a system of distance training using email communication and incremental accreditation.

## AREN

The title Amateur Radio Emergency Network is under examination at the moment for two reasons.

One, in Ireland there are no Radio Amateurs, but Radio Experimenters, and two, while the titles Radio Amateur and Radio Experimenter are both admirable and something to be justly and proactively proud of, we should not present these words to those who may need our help in a life or death situation.

Imagine being assisted at the scene of an accident by medical, fire and rescue, or other personnel with the words Amateur or Experimenter clearly visible on their Hi Visibility apparel?

Suggestions for a name for the group are welcome and a small prize & public recognition in the pages of Echo Ireland will be offered to the author of any that may eventually be used.

## International

Ongoing liaison is taking place with Paul Gaskell G4MWO, RSGB Radio Communications Voluntary Services (RCVS) National Co-ordinator and with IARU Region 1 Emergency Co-ordinator: Gordon Adams, G3LEQ.

## Your Views and Input.

Views of members and interested parties are always welcome on these or on any EmerComms subject.

Applications for membership, from individuals or from groups who provide voluntary community communications services throughout the country are always very welcome.

John Ketch EI2GN,  
\_9 Rockcliffe Terrace,  
Blackrock Road,  
Cork.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society Emergency Communications Coordinator.

ei2gn@ketch.ie  
aren@irts.ie

## Introduction

In scoring the VHF Field Day contest the contacts are scored at one point per km. No cognisance is made of the fact that it is much easier to make a contact at 50 MHz than at 1296 MHz. With the introduction of 50 MHz to the contest contacts are made at distances much greater than on the higher frequency bands. This gives rise to the anomaly that one contact on 50 MHz can be worth many times the score of a contact on 1296 MHz. It means that maybe three contacts on 50 MHz can be worth more than the whole effort of setting up a 432 MHz or a 1296 MHz station. This is not what the contest should be about. The contest should encourage operation on all of the VHF & UHF bands. It doesn't now because it is biased in favour of the bands on which the contact distances are greater.

## Example

On VHF Field Day 2003 EI9E/p scored 408,686 points on 50 MHz and 7,771 (before bonus) on 1296 MHz.

Three good contacts on 50 MHz would have given more than the 1296 MHz total score.

Because the scoring has not been modified to reflect the nature of propagation on 50 MHz, VHF/UHF Field Day is in danger of becoming a HF contest.

Imagine an opening on 50 MHz on Field Day during the peak of the sun's cycle. One contact could easily be worth a whole other band score.

While 50 MHz is very welcome in the contest it should take its place as one of the bands to be worked and not the one overriding band that swamps the others. The IRTS Committee considered this matter after I requested submissions in Echo Ireland.

Proposals were submitted by John Hearne EI2FG on behalf of the EI9E Group.

The committee decided to adopt the scoring system of 'normalising' for VHF/UHF Field day, the details of which follow.

*My thanks to John and the group for taking the time to submit their proposals.*

## Normalising

### Step 1.

Setting the winning score on a particular band to, say, 1000 and calculating the other entries as a proportion of that score.

Example:

EI2YY scores 408686 on 50 MHz

EI3ZZ scores 512486 on 50 MHz

The higher score is made the norm at 1000. The other score is then given by  $408,686 \times 1,000/512,486$  and becomes 797.

It is easy to see that EI2YY got 79.7% of EI3ZZ's score.

### Step 2.

Carrying this out for each band and adding up the total normalised scores for each band to give a total overall score.

The winning score on each band will be set to 1000

Other entrants' scores will be marked as a percentage of this.

Example

EI2YY achieves normalised scores of 797, 708, 842, 1000 and 1000 and

EI3ZZ achieves normalised scores of

Taking full advantage of a Sporadic E opening during Field Day, they managed to score 698,765 points and under the old system they would have won the contest.

However under the new normalised scoring method the most they could score is 1000 points and as such could only gain 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The revised table from above would be as set out in table 2.

This method allows the individual bands to compete because it is the winning score on a band that sets the norm.

If I beat you by a small margin on one band and you thrash me on another then you'll win. That's fair.

Otherwise if you beat me by a tiny margin on one band and you don't bother with the higher bands while I do you are putting yourself at a disadvantage because I could get up to 1000 points by making an effort.

The aim of the contest is to promote VHF and UHF activity and encourage

operation on bands other than those that are likely to have the highest score, namely 50 MHz and 144 MHz, in that order. This is the method used by other national societies to score their VHF Field Day entries.

| Existing point/km scoring |         |       |         |        |       |         |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| Band                      | 50      | 70    | 144     | 432    | 1296  | Totals  |
| EI2YY                     | 408,686 | 2,479 | 113,770 | 29,289 | 8,771 | 562,995 |
| EI3ZZ                     | 512,486 | 3,500 | 135,000 | 29,000 | 2,000 | 681,986 |
| Normalised scoring        |         |       |         |        |       |         |
| EI2YY                     | 797     | 708   | 842     | 1,000  | 1,000 | 4,347   |
| EI3ZZ                     | 1,000   | 1,000 | 1,000   | 990    | 228   | 4,218   |

1000, 1000, 1000, 990 and 228.

EI2YY totals 4347 and EI3ZZ totals

4218 so EI2YY wins even though

EI3ZZ has made more contacts and scored more points in the existing system but because EI2YY has made much more effort on one band than EI3ZZ.

As another example say Group EI4WW set up a good 50 MHz station and didn't bother with any of the other bands.

**Please Note: Entries for this years' contest will only be accepted in electronic format.**

**Use of a VHF Contest logging program is essential for this.**

Some programs allow you to do a post contest log which allows transfer of a paper log. This as you can imagine could be a laborious process,

It's easier to use a computer on the day.

I recommend **SDV by Paul EI5DI**

which will run on almost any PC regardless of age. It is available on his website [www.ei5di.com](http://www.ei5di.com).

A key for this program is freely available from Paul to EI testers.

If you are not familiar with this or other VHF programs you should obtain a copy to practise set-up and operation before the contest.

| Table 2                     |         |       |         |        |       |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| Existing point / km scoring |         |       |         |        |       |         |
| Band                        | 50      | 70    | 144     | 432    | 1296  | Totals  |
| EI2YY                       | 408,686 | 2,479 | 113,770 | 29,289 | 8,771 | 562,995 |
| EI3ZZ                       | 512,486 | 3,500 | 135,000 | 29,000 | 2,000 | 681,986 |
| EI4WW                       | 698,765 | -     | -       | -      | -     | 698,765 |
| Normalised scoring          |         |       |         |        |       |         |
| EI2YY                       | 585     | 708   | 842     | 1000   | 1000  | 4135    |
| EI3ZZ                       | 733     | 1000  | 1000    | 990    | 228   | 3951    |
| EI4WW                       | 1000    | -     | -       | -      | -     | 1000    |



## European Union Enlargement Award

To mark the enlargement of the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2004, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) is issuing an Award for amateurs who contact Special Event Stations with the prefix EI25 during the weekend 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> May 2004.

The Special Event Stations will be located in ten Irish cities/towns which have each been twinned with a new member state of the European Union. They are as follows:

| Callsign      | QTH                | Twinned with New Member State |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>EI25CY</b> | <b>Bray</b>        | <b>Cyprus</b>                 |
| <b>EI25ES</b> | <b>Galway</b>      | <b>Estonia</b>                |
| <b>EI25HA</b> | <b>Sligo</b>       | <b>Hungary</b>                |
| <b>EI25LY</b> | <b>Kilkenny</b>    | <b>Lithuania</b>              |
| <b>EI25ML</b> | <b>Waterford</b>   | <b>Malta</b>                  |
| <b>EI25OK</b> | <b>Killarney</b>   | <b>Czech Republic</b>         |
| <b>EI25OM</b> | <b>Cork</b>        | <b>Slovakia</b>               |
| <b>EI25SL</b> | <b>Limerick</b>    | <b>Slovenia</b>               |
| <b>EI25SP</b> | <b>Letterkenny</b> | <b>Poland</b>                 |
| <b>EI25YL</b> | <b>Drogheda</b>    | <b>Latvia</b>                 |

In addition, an IRTS HQ station with the callsign **EI25EU** will be operational from Dublin.

### Award Requirements

To qualify for the Award stations should work the ten EI25 stations listed above but may use the HQ station EI25EU as a "joker" for one missing contact (see also "Substitute Stations" below).

### Substitute Stations

If a contact with one or more of the EI25 stations is not made it can be substituted by 2 contacts with stations located in the relevant new member country, e.g. if EI25HA is not worked it may be replaced by QSOs with 2 HA stations.

However, a total of 3 EI25 stations must be included in the Award submission.

While EI25 stations will only be QRV in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2004, contacts with the Substitute Stations may be made up to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2004.

The Award is available to SWLs on a "heard" basis.

QSL cards are not required but applications should be submitted by way of log entries certified by two licensed amateurs.

All applications for the Award must be received by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004.

The Award will not be endorsed for band or mode.

A fee of €5 or 3 IRCs should accompany the application which should be addressed to:

IRTS Awards Manager,  
P.O. Box 462,  
Dublin 9,  
Ireland.

## Tipperary Amateur Radio Group



### EI7TRG en route to Dawsons Table for 2m Counties Contest

Eamonn Kavanagh, EI3FFB; Tommy Hallinan, EI2IT: John Burke, EI2JB, James Ronan (SWL), John Ronan EI7IG is behind the camera.

On Saturday and Sunday April 3rd & 4th members of Tipperary Amateur Radio Group and friends provided emergency communication services for the annual Galtee Mountain Walking festival. This festival attracted over 450 walkers from all over Ireland and England over the 2 days. Special thanks to EI9HR and EI3IQ who accompanied TRG members EI2HI, EI2IT, EI3FFB, EI7IG, EI5GE, EI9IZ and EI2JB on the Galtee Mountain range.

The service provided was invaluable according to organisers who called on the group to assist in the safe passage of a number of walkers in difficulty from the mountains during the event. Our thanks to all who participated in making this yet again another successful promotion for the hobby in the community.

For further information on the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group please check out [www.ei7trg.org](http://www.ei7trg.org)

### Denmark drops Morse code

The Danish Information Technology and Telecom Agency has announced new regulations for the Radio Amateur Service to come into force as of February 1<sup>st</sup> 2004.

The most distinctive element is the elimination of Morse code examination for access to the bands below 30 MHz.

Moreover, Danish Radio Amateurs are now allowed to use segments in the 70 MHz band without special permit.

There are 3 categories of licenses in Denmark: A, B and D. Category D (Operator/Non-technical License) is allowed to use 50 watt output and all modes on 50, 144, 432 and 1296 MHz and 25 W on 70 MHz. A "non-technical" examination is required, and only CE-marked equipment is allowed. Category B is allowed to use 100 watt on all bands and modes (25 watt output on 70 MHz). Class D (Non-technical examination) as well as a "limited technical examination" is required.

Category A is allowed to use 1 kW output on all bands and modes up to 438 MHz. (25 watt output on 70 MHz), and 250 watt output above 1,240 MHz. Category D and B examinations as well as an additional "technical examination" is required.

All 3 examinations are written multi-choice examinations.

For further information contact EDR at [kontor@edr.dk](mailto:kontor@edr.dk).

# IRTS AGM and Limerick Rally

## IRTS Annual Dinner

The 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society was hosted by Limerick Radio Club at the Greenhills Hotel, Limerick over the weekend of March 6/7th.

The weekend activities kicked off with the annual dinner on the Saturday night and a fine crowd representing most parts of the country enjoyed fine food in a very sociable atmosphere.



Dolores Lynch (right) being presented by the Linear Amp UK sponsored prize by Gwen Rodnell.

This involves broadband being brought to the schools by fibre optic cable and microwaves and being distributed internally on the mains wiring.

Discussions are ongoing with Comreg on the issue and it is hoped to carry out site tests shortly.

In relation to the proposed Power Line Transmission experiments in the Tuam area, contact has been established with



Howard Morris EI5EG winner of the meal voucher sponsored by the Greenhills Hotel at the dinner raffle

sored by Yaesu UK.

A Mobilite headset sponsored by Linear Amp UK was won by Dolores Lynch and a presentation pack sponsored by Icom UK was won by Eimear Kirkby.

## IRTS AGM

Sixty six members attended that Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society on Sunday afternoon last.

The President Sean Donelan EI4GK in his address paid tribute to all the members who were involved in a voluntary capacity in keeping the Society running on a day-to-day basis and asked that more members take an active interest in the work being carried out.

He referred to the fairly recent trend of experimenters expressing criticism on message boards, guest books and indeed on the air.

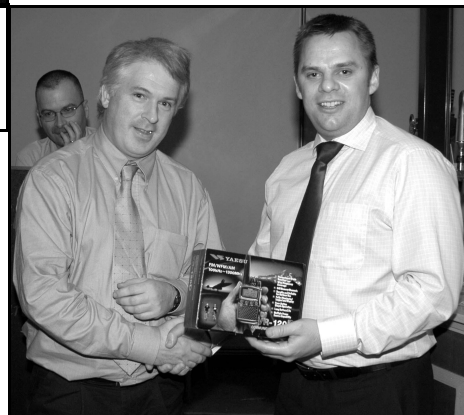
He asked that anyone with a problem should contact the society and address the issue directly.

He briefed members on the latest development of broadband distribution in the Liberties area in Dublin.

The newly elected President of the Radio Society of Great Britain, Jeff Smith MI0AEX accompanied by his wife Jane were guests of the IRTS at the dinner. In his address to the gathering Jeff outlined the major changes in the UK licensing structure over the past few years and the background to it all.

On the good news front, he announced that RSGB had expectations that the additional 100 kHz due to be granted to the amateur radio community in 2009 would be made available in the UK within the next twelve months. If that should happen, then Irish experimenters should also benefit from the doubling in size of the 40 metre band as discussed with Com-Reg at our recent meeting. Several countries have at this stage announced the ranting of the additional 100kHz on a secondary basis..

A free raffle on the dinner tickets resulted in Joe Fadden EI3IX going home with a VR 120 Scanner sponsored



Joe Fadden EI3IX (left) being presented with his prize, a Yaesu VR 120 scanner by Deane of Yaesu UK.

the ESB at national level and indications are that the society will be officially involved at the testing stage. (see article elsewhere in this issue).

The committee and treasurers reports showed the society to be in a very healthy state with a membership of 1005 at the year-end.

This is the highest ever membership figure at a year end.

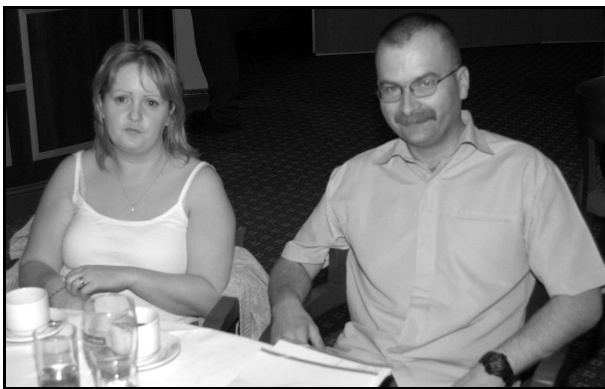
The Society expresses its thanks in particular to Limerick Radio Club for their very successful hosting of the weekend's activities and also all who supported the events.

## Limerick Rally

The Limerick Rally is now firmly established as the leading such event in Echo India and this years event again lived up to its high reputation.

Yaesu, ICOM and Linear Amp UK made the trip from the UK and Irish dealers present included Southeast Communications, The Waterford Communications Centre, Long Communications, Cell-

(Continued on page 25)



Paul Kirkby EI6FE, Chairman of Limerick Radio Club with his XYL Eimear

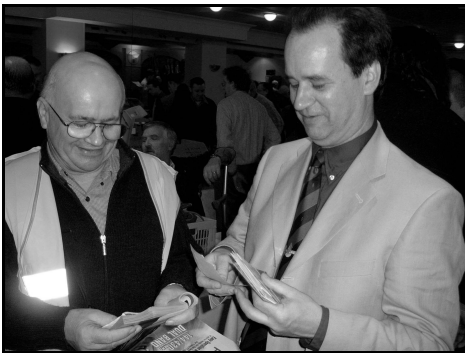
(Continued from page 24)

com, Sean Martin, Back to the Future and a new company RE Electronics from Cork.

Stephen Hall and friends put on an impressive display of Wireless LAN and the Limerick Club put on a display of EchoLink.

The Tipperary Radio Group and the Shannon Basin Club also had stands.

Yaesu sponsored the first prize in the raffle of an FT8800R dual band transceiver was won by John Barry EI8IR. The second prize, sponsored by Icom UK, was a ICR 5 scanner and this was won by an unidentified gentleman from Roscommon.



Paddy Smith EI8GY and Noel EI2JC  
Paddy was the ticket seller at the rally and ensured every visitor got an opportunity to participate in the draw.

Limerick Radio Club would like to thank all the traders and all who supported the rally in any way.

### IRTS Awards

One of the highlights of any IRTS AGM is the presentation of awards. These are for service to the hobby, home construction and operating achievements.

At the AGM in Limerick the following awards were presented:

The Collins Cup was awarded to John Breen EI7BV to honour his great work on behalf of the experimenter community both before and during the 2003 World Radio Conference. John was head of the Irish delegation and he worked closely with the society and the IARU representatives at the conference.

Dan Lloyd EI3AE was awarded the Conway Cup for his services to the hobby.

Dan is well known to most of the EI experimenters from his role as the Marine Surveyor who conducted most of the

experimenter examinations in recent years.

Following his retirement he undertook the role as Chief Morse Examiner for the IRTS.

The Arup Cup was presented to Aedan O'Meara EI3EG for his contribution to the hobby over the years both through his work with Cork Radio Club, the Cork Repeater Group and more recently his great achievement in getting the Cork Amateur TV repeater up and running. Aedan is a white stick operator.

The Presidents Cup was presented to South Dublin Radio Club in recognition of their great work in promoting cross border relations through their twinning arrangements with the Glengormley Electronics and Radio Society.

The Sheila Piper Cup was presented to Dave Moore EI4BZ for his long service with both the Newsletter and the Radio news.

Dave has been active with the news services of the Society for the past seven years.

This year, probably for the first time ever, both of the awards for home construction were presented to the same person. Tony Breathnach EI5EM presented two excellent examples of home construction to the judges and took home the Folan Shield and the Kevin Freeney Trophy.

The main awards outside of field days and the counties contest are based on the IOTA and CQWW Contests.

This year all these trophies have gone to County Cork. In the IOTA contest the leading island station was EJ7M, the East Cork Group who were presented with the IRTS IOTA Trophy. They operated from Bere Island and the operators were Jerry EI6BT, John EI8IR and Dave EI4BZ.

The leading single operator was Jim Barry EI8GS and he was presented with the IRTS DX trophy.

The highest scoring EI entrant in the 12 Hour CW section of the IOTA contest was Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM and he was presented with the Hal Hodgens Key.

The Tom Donelan (EI9BG) Trophy is awarded to the leading EI station in the



RSGB President Geoff Smith MI0AEX making a presentation to IRTS President Sean Donelan EI4GK at the dinner

CQ Worldwide CW Contest and this year the winner was Dave EI4BZ.

### CW Field Day

The CW Field Day was held at a central location on the farm of Paddy Maher EI3AV in Cloughjordan in County Tipperary.

The Pete Daly Cup was presented to the winners of the open section, Cork Radio Club. Their team included Jeremy EI5GM, Anatoly EI4JM, Stephen EI6JA and Chuck EI4HS.

The restricted section was won by the



John Barry EI8IR (centre) being presented with his FT 8800R dual band transceiver by Deane General manager of Yaesu UK. On the right is

East Cork Group EI7M represented by Jerry EI6BT, Steve EI9HC and Dave EI4BZ. They were presented with the Paddy Smyth Cup.

### SSB Field Day

The SSB Field Day was held centrally in Galbally College in Ballinasloe, courtesy of EI4HF.

The Restricted section was won by the Dalkey Island Group EI1DD and their operators were Paul EI2CA, Paul EI5DI, Sean EI7CD, Peter EI7CC, Aidan EI8CE, Tony EI6EW and Danny EI5HD.

(Continued on page 26)

(Continued from page 25)

A joint venture station between Cork Radio Club and the East Cork Radio Group using the callsign EI1X/p operating from Glanmire in County Cork won the open section and also were the leading station in Europe. They were presented with the Paddy Daly Microphone. The operators here were Neil EI3JE, John EI8IR, Jim EI8GS, Jerry EI6BT, Jeremy EI5GM, Ingo DH5ST, Anatoly EI4JM and Finbar EI1CS.

Following on the great success with the centrally organised HF field days last year, it is hoped that an even bigger entry will be received for the upcoming field days. The CW event will be held on the first weekend in June and the SSB one on the first weekend in September.

### VHF/UHF Field Day

The Thomond Shield for the open section of the VHF/UHF Field Day was won this year by EI9E/p, a joint venture station between the East Cork Group, the Wexford VHF Group and the Southern Region RTE ARC.

The operators were John EI2FG, Billy EI7FJ, Mick EI6GF, Neil EI3JE, John EI8IR, Jerry EI6BT, Declan EI9HQ, John EI8JA and Eoin EI7FXB.

The Restricted Section winners were the Dundalk Amateur Radio Group EI7DAR/p operated by Thos EI2JD, Pat EI2HX, Dermot EI2AK, Michael EI5GG, Mark EI9FX and James MI5AHG.

### Counties Contest

Both sessions of the 2 Metre Counties Contest attracted great interest last year. In the spring event, Fr. Niall EI4CF was the winner of the high power fixed section while Hugh EI2HI was the top station in the autumn leg.

South Dublin Radio Club were the winners of the high power portable section in the Spring while the Tipperary Club EI7T took the autumn trophy.

Keeping the SDR flag flying, Tom EI7HT was the recipient of the trophies for the low power fixed section in both the spring and autumn events. Paul EI2JF was the winner of the low power portable in the spring contest and John EI4HS won the autumn event. Pat EI9HX operating EI2SBC took the Spring FM only trophy, while Joe EI7GY won the autumn section.

The Slievenamon Shield as presented to the Society by the Tipperary Group and



Chris from Icom UK making an on the spot repair for Declan EI9HQ

is competed for over the Sundays in July on FM on the 70-centimetre band. Hugh O'Donnell EI2HI again successfully defended his title and is the only recipient of the shield to date.

The EI7IQ 6 Metre Shield is presented to the leading operator on the 6-metre band during the previous year. This year, Thos Caffrey EI2JD came out on top after a very close battle with three other stations, EI5FK, EI3IO and EI3IX. The winning score involved 1,573 unique QSOs with stations in 58 DXCC entities and in 331 locator squares.

The EI7IQ 4 Metre Shield is awarded to the leading 4 metre operator in the country and this year was again presented to Dave Court EI3IO.

### IOTA 2004

Plans are already being made for this years IOTA Contest. The East Cork Group will be joining forces with the Bristol Contest Group for a return trip to Bere Island but this year they will operate in the open section.

The crew at EI9E are planning a visit to the Saltee Islands and their entry is likely to be in the restricted section. At the time of writing we are not aware of the intentions of the South Dublin/Gears Group are. They travelled to Inishbofin in 2003.

Another regular who missed last years event is IRTS President Sean EI4GK. HE will no doubt resume battle in the coming year. Please keep us posted on your plans.

## Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

The results of the MREN members competition for January, were announced at the February meeting, by Club Chairperson, Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB.

The results were as follows:

- 1st: John Corless, EI7IQ.
- 2nd: John Browne, EI7FAB.
- 3rd: Brendan Minish, EI6IZ.
- 4th: Dermot Adams, EI7IX.
- 5th: Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB.
- 6th: Mike Hayes, EI2EO.
- 7th: Padraic Baynes, EI9JA.
- 8th: John McDonnell, EI6IR.
- 9th: Terry Ebdon, EI9IW.

Dermot Adams EI7IX, was the winner of the Mayo Radio Experimenters member's competition for February. Dermot is well known as the IRTS QSL Manager for the 7 series calls. A total of nine members returned scores in the competition and the complete results are as follows:

In 1st place was Dermot Adams EI7IX, in 2nd place was John Corless EI7IQ, 3rd was taken by Brendan Minish EI6IZ, 4th place went to John McAndrew EI3JM, 5th was John Browne, EI7FAB, 6th was Mike Hayes EI2EO and joint 7th place went to John McDonnell EI6IR, Jarlath Cunnane EI9FYB and Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB.

John McAndrew EI3JM was the winner of the Mayo Radio Experimenters March Contest.

The full March results are:

- 1st John McAndrew, EI3JM,
- 2nd. John Corless, EI7IQ,
- 3rd. Mike Hayes EI2EO,
- 4th. Brendan Minish EI6IZ,
- Joint 5th. John Browne, EI7FAB and Dermot Adams EI7IX.
- Joint 7th. Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB and Jarlath Cunnane EI7FYB.

MREN has a special event station active from Mayo to commemorate Irelands upcoming Presidency of the European Union.

The group will operate the special event station EI0EU until the end of June.

The station will be active on all bands.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 9pm in Stensons, Ballyvary on the N5.

## World Amateur Radio Day 2004 Award

Motto: "Radio Amateurs: Pioneers in Bridging Barriers to World Understanding"

The WARD 2004 Award is designed to commemorate the World Amateur Radio Day celebrated by IARU on April 18th each year.

The Award is issued by the MK QTC, Polish Amateur Radio Journal, with support of PZK, the Polish Amateur Radio Union.

WARD 2004 will be granted for at least the following numbers of contacts: either 10 QSO's on HF bands, or 5 QSO's on VHF+ bands.

All contacts must be made between 00:00 and 24:00 UT on 18 April 2004.

Send a standard application form (log extract), including the list of QSO's, to: Redakcja MK QTC, ul. Wielmozy 5b, 82-337 Suchacz-Zamek, Poland, on or before 31 May 2004.

The price of the WARD 2004 Award is 10 IRCs or USD 5.00 or EUR 5.00. Full-colour Award, size: 210 x 297 mm.

The WARD 2004 Award is also available to SWL's for the same numbers of reports.

## IOTA Bearing Chart

Tim EI8IC has provided a new operating resource on his website:

Enter your 6-digit Grid Locator code, and the web page will generate a short path, long path and distance list from your QTH to each of the current IOTA reference numbers.

Tim believes that this is the first time such a facility has been made available.

Check out 'HF Contesting > Contest Resources', or direct:  
<http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic/iota/iota.php>

Mirror Site:  
<http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/iota/iota.php>

[www.qsl.net/ei8ic](http://www.qsl.net/ei8ic)  
[www.mapability.com/ei8ic](http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic)  
Home of the Global Overlay Mapper

## Members Advertisements

**For Sale:** The following items have been disposed of by the Limerick Radio Club. Offers to Paul EI6FE on 061 360122.

FT 101ZD Transceiver, FC102 matching Tuner and a Tri band 2 element short boom Yagi. Will sell individually.

**For Sale:** Kenwood TMV7E dual band mobile transceiver, full dual Rx, boxed with manuals. Kenwood TM255E mobile high performance 2m multimode transceiver, boxed with manuals.

Yaesu FT 817 Portable, narrow CW filter fitted, boxed with manuals. Sensible offers to Paul EI6FE on 061 361022

**For Sale:** Yaesu 101ZD in very good condition, no WARC bands... €175.00 Phone 01-2824626.

**For Sale:** Kenwood TS 440 with mike and manual €30.00 Also 26 ft tower. Contact 087 2666675

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT2500 2 meter mobile, 5/20/50 watts. Large alpha/num display. Price €200.00 Contact EI7II on 087-2426505.

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT1000MP HF Transceiver in excellent condition. Price €2,000.00 Phone 087-2956894

**For Sale:** Icom 737A HF Transceiver with ATU. One non-smoking owner from new. Present condition "As New" and can be seen working. Complete with manual and box ... €1,000 o.v.n.o. Ring Tony on 0404-68156 evenings.

**For Sale:** Kenwood HF TR RX TS 450 SAT.

P.S. Astron RS 35 Amp all as new, used only a few times.

Yaesu FT-290R plus unopened 2 Meter amp 35W/GaAsFET Pre-Amp.

Pace CB 145 Tx/Rx.

Philips 15 MHz dual-channel osc.

Philips FET Probe PM 9353.

Laboratory Standard Signal Generator for AM,FM and Video Modulation by Rhode & Schwarz, Germany, also Matching Pads,

Heavy 28 Kgs. Power Supplies PE1509 Var. 0 15v stab. x 2.Rc-Generator PM 5120.

Aim Inductance Meter DLM307.

Hi-Mound Morse Key MK705

New.Grid Dip Meter Kyoritsu with coils 0.435 - 220 Mhz.

PM 6661 Automatic Digital Counter. HF Millivoltmeters GM 6025.

OHM Meters and Diode Voltmeters.

Universal pulse generator GM 2314.

Old U.S. Army Frequency Meter BC-221-AA.

All Manuals available for above.

Various Micrometers, Electrical Motors, Reels of Insulated wires of various gauges etc.

Homebrew A.T.U. and R.F. Noise Bridge. New 2 Meter Crossed Yagi, not assembled..

Reasonable Offers to 087 7790223. Bernard Leavey EI4ES.

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT-225RD All Mode 2 meter Transceiver with built-in PSU, Mic., and Manual €220.00

Ring Sean EI4GK at 01-2821420

**Wanted:** VHF/UHF Transceiver. Yaesu FT736R or similar.

Contact Leo EI8BR at 01-2809382

**Members advertisements are free**



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Telephone (028) 4273 8270

or on :  
[www.bdars.com](http://www.bdars.com)

### Cork Radio Club Annual Rally

**Blarney Park Hotel  
Blarney, Co. Cork.**

**Sunday September 19th  
2004**

### Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to  
The Outgoing Bureau Manager

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,  
Rathlin, Kilcrohane,  
Co. Cork.**  
Ei8jk@amsat.org

Cards sent to PO Box 462 can be delayed

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### Forthcoming Book! Special Offer until 20 May next!

*Reporting the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-5*  
*Lionel James's first wireless transmissions to The Times*  
by Peter Slattery (EI2JA)

Published by Global Oriental, Kent, England; ISBN 1-901903-57-5

This early wireless adventure story, a 'first' in wireless and in the history of journalism, has its origins in Ireland, in Howth, Co. Dublin, 100 years ago. The hardback volume, with many illustrations, is offered now at a special pre-publication price of €30, until 20 May.

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### Caravan/Camping Rally

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If interested, contact Dave EI4BZ.  
Phone 021-4883555 evenings or 087-6290574 anytime  
[ei4bz@eircom.net](mailto:ei4bz@eircom.net)